

CHFM Approved Priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee for approval at the March 2022 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

At the February 27, 2022 Forum, Friends were invited to participate in the bi-annual suggestion of priorities for FCNL's lobbying work with the Congress that will be seated next January. FCNL requested the Meetings provide up to seven 30-word priorities. The Peace and Justice Committee recorded and summarized the leadings expressed at the Forum and would like the Meeting's permission to submit them, as requested, to FCNL by April 12.

===== Seven 30-word priorities for FCNL =====

Climate Change

If the earth can no longer support us, everything else becomes moot. Our government must do their part for our children's sake. Replace our consumption of fossil fuels with renewable energy.

War

Need to restore the power of war to Congress. Recognize all wars are damaging and must end.

Human Rights

Poverty and criminal justice are part of this fight. Immigration is a worldwide issue. The U.S. must stop supporting Israeli apartheid. Racism in the USA threatens our democracy.

Economic issues

Extreme economic inequality destroys peace and unity. Expand post-secondary education: free tuition at community college, vocational training, and student debt forgiveness. Families with children need the child credit.

Voting

Expansion of voting rights - make it as easy as possible and count all votes - this is the bedrock of democracy. Voting - most powerful non-violent tool in a democracy.

Keeping with the existing priorities

The current priorities can usefully be repeated so FCNL can stay focused and not reorganize. Climate change will not wait for our human concerns.

Civility in USA

Incivility in the USA has made direct or open communication between people difficult. We need in-country peace programs before we can make changes. Social media regulation is needed.