Your support made good things happen. Thank you.

The $308B state budget for FY 2022-23 brought us closer to equity, access and an end to poverty. Because of you, FCLCA was able to be part of successful budget advocacy efforts.

California sets an example for the nation

California became the first state to extend the state version of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) to all those eligible regardless of immigration status, benefiting 750,000 people.

Our state made historic investments in low-income children and families:

- HOPE Accounts, a new program of trust accounts benefiting children who lost parents to COVID or were in the foster care system, a promising tool that can be expanded to narrow the racial wealth gap.
- Increased CalWORKS grants to finally bring all children out of deep poverty.
- Expanding the Young Child Tax Credit to caregivers with no outside income – the latest in the expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit – refundable credits that now benefit over four million low-income Californians.

The final budget provided for strong action on the environment, with a record $54B of investments in climate resilience.

Your support made FCLCA advocacy possible on these important bills!

FCLCA lobbyists and activists weighed in on 135 bills in 2022 in our focus areas of economic justice, criminal justice reform, environment, immigrant and racial justice and more.

Criminal Justice Reform: FCLCA co-sponsored AB 2167, signed into law by the governor. It requires the court to consider alternatives to incarceration at sentencing and states the intent of the Legislature that the disposition of any criminal case use the least restrictive means available.

AB 256, the Racial Justice Act for All, was also signed into law and makes the Racial Justice Act retroactive - a law passed in 2020 that prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction, or from imposing a sentence, based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. FCLCA helped organize interfaith leaders in support of AB 256, seen here delivering a letter to the Capitol signed by more than 112 faith organizations.
Environment: FCLCA was active in advocating for SB 54, a landmark measure to regulate plastic pollution – by 2032 all packaging must be recyclable or compostable. FCLCA also joined in campaigns to pass SB 1137, which mandates that no new oil drilling take place within 3,200 feet of a sensitive site such as a home, school, playground or hospital, as well as legislation to ban textiles and cosmetic products from containing “forever chemicals” called PFAS, which never break down and are found in the blood of 97% of Americans. FCLCA also lobbied in support of two bills that passed the Legislature but were vetoed by Gov. Newsom: AB 2146, to prohibit nonagricultural uses of neonic pesticides, which have been linked to declining populations of pollinators and SB 222, to develop a water rate assistance program for low-income ratepayers.

Economic Justice: Low-income workers won some major gains this year and FCLCA was there to help pass important legislation. SB 951 will increase the wage replacement rate for lower-wage workers so that they can take advantage of paid family leave and state disability insurance. AB 257, the FAST Recovery Act, is the first of its kind legislation in the nation to set up a statewide council that brings together all stakeholders to address labor issues in the fast food sector. Bereavement leave and leave to care for “chosen family” members are now available to California workers via AB 1949 and AB 1041. And SB 1162 will bring transparency to help address the racial and gender wage gaps, as employers will now report pay data by race, ethnicity and sex and provide pay scales in all job postings.

Ballot Propositions

As usual in election years with propositions on the ballot, FCLCA’s board of directors, with the participation of volunteers, developed recommendations on the measures – a total of seven in 2022. FCLCA’s analysis and recommendations were then published on our website www.fclca.org and shared with the wider FCLCA community.

Grassroots Advocacy

Constituents who communicate directly with their legislators are critical to getting good legislation passed. Your support in 2022 allowed us to mobilize members of the FCLCA Action Network who sent almost 2,000 messages to Assembly Members, Senators, and the governor on key issues in response to action alerts.

Thank you for making a difference! Read more at www.fclca.org