



Friends Committee on Legislation of California

August 2025 Update

From: Kevan Insko, Director

The Legislature returns from recess on August 18, and there is still so much to be done between now and October 12, the last day for Gov. Newsom to sign or veto bills.

In the midst of all that is going on at the federal level, I'd especially like to thank you for recognizing the importance of state-level work in supporting the gains we have made and in protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Now more than ever, it's critical to focus on our California state budget as a statement of our values and essential to advocate for legislation that reflects those values. This is clearly a moment to stand up for the dignity of all.

Your support allowed FCLCA to have a robust presence in the state budget process this year. We worked in coalition with many other organizations to forestall proposed cuts in the social safety net and health care, and for the most part, severe cuts were avoided. Unfortunately, there was some backtracking on the extension of health care to undocumented Californians.

This fall we expect to be advocating again as decisionmakers grapple with the effects of federal cuts on California's safety net and health care system.

The coalitions we work with are also calling for new sources of revenue, like fairer taxation of larger corporations, that could be accessed even in times of lower income tax revenue or federal funding.

Your support this year is making it possible for FCLCA weigh in on 85 bills this year in the areas of immigrant and worker rights; safety net services and health care; criminal justice reform; housing and the environment.

Immigrant Rights has been a major theme this legislative session. FCLCA is supporting

- AB 49, SB 98 and SB 48 - bills that add additional controls to protect school sites from immigration enforcement. SB 81, which adds additional protections from immigration enforcement to patients at health care facilities.
- SB 578, which establishes the California Workplace Outreach Program to inform low wage workers of their rights under California law, including health and safety, labor laws, and civil rights, to be provided in multiple languages through trusted providers.

Criminal Justice Reform continues as a major focus for FCLCA, including

- AB 1071, which makes clarifying changes to the procedures for filing a claim under the Racial Justice Act to ensure that the state fulfills the Act's intent, and
- AB 1229, which moves the Adult Reentry Grant program, which seeks to prevent formerly incarcerated people from becoming homeless, from the Board of State and Community Corrections to the state Housing and Community Development
- AB 812 which requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to promulgate regulations regarding the referral of participants in the California Conservation Camp program and incarcerated persons working at institutional firehouses for resentencing.

We continue to advocate to protect **our state's environment**, including bills such as SB 601, which would re-establish previous federal protections (prior to changes by the Trump administration) for California wetlands, streams and drinking water from the discharge of pollutants; and AB 1448, to close loopholes to clarify that the use of existing offshore oil drilling infrastructure for expanded oil drilling is prohibited and adds protections for California's coast.

I'd also note that a number of important environmental and criminal justice reform bills are now "two-year bills" which means they will not move forward this first year of the two-year session but have the opportunity to pass and become law next year. **With your help, FCLCA will be there to continue to bring your voice to the Legislature.**

Thank you again for your support, your activism and your commitment to a more just and compassionate California!