



Friends Committee on Legislation of California

UPDATE May 2, 2025

It's one of the busiest times of year here in Sacramento. Over the next couple of weeks, Congressional committees will be working on the federal budget, potentially imposing cuts that would have a drastic impact on California. Our state budget process is also in full swing – with advocacy organizations like FCLCA lobbying to protect safety net programs and the progress we have made. You can see more here.

Thank you for making it possible for us to weigh in at this critical time!

We expect that on May 14 the governor will release his “May Revise” budget figures based on updated revenue projections. The buzz is that there could be a \$25 billion deficit in California’s revenue, even without federal funding cuts. There is a growing call from advocates and activists for new sources of state revenue, including closing corporate tax loopholes.

On the federal level, cuts to vital programs like SNAP (food stamps) of \$230 billion have been predicted, which could mean a shortfall for California of \$22 billion or more. Medicaid faces a nationwide cut of \$880 billion, and in California, where almost 40% of our people are covered by Medi-Cal, and one-third of our state budget funds come from federal sources - our state budget process is moving forward in a state of deep uncertainty. It is likely that budget bills and revisions will have to continue well into the fall following the budget agreed to by the June 15 deadline.

Your voice matters in this time of crisis !

I'd like to ask you to visit our Action Center Page at www.fclca.org and consider sending messages to your decisionmakers regarding these important issues. You may also want to regularly visit the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Action Center. So much of what we will face here in California depends on what happens in Washington, D.C.!

In the state Legislature, thousands of bills continue to move through the annual process. Today was the deadline for policy committees to hear bills that have a fiscal impact in the house – Assembly or Senate – that the bill originated in. If they pass, they move on to the Senate or Assembly Appropriations Committee. If they are released out of those committees, they will proceed to a floor vote in that house. Then the process starts over again in the second house.

You can find bills we are working on at our website section “Our Work” and by scrolling down the Action Center page for a pdf downloadable list.

An update on a few key bills:

Climate change and Environment

SB 222, the Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act, is now a two-year bill, which means it has until January 31, 2026, to pass the Senate. It creates a private right of action to enable individuals injured by climate disasters and extreme weather events to sue companies that misled the public about the harm their fossil fuel products would cause.

SB684/ AB1243 - The Climate Superfund Act - requires the world’s biggest fossil fuel polluters to use their global profits to pay for damage their products caused the state. This bill passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee but has one more committee hearing to complete. It has an urgency clause which means it still could move prior to January and isn’t subject to the normal legislative calendar deadlines, or it could become a two-year bill.

Criminal Justice

SB 672 – The Youth Rehabilitation and Opportunity Act will provide young Californians sentenced to life without parole before age 26 who have served 25 or more years with the opportunity to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings to demonstrate their rehabilitation and become eligible for parole. The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1279 would ensure that a prior juvenile adjudication is not used as a “strike” to enhance an adult sentence. It passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee and is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Immigration

SB 81 would prohibit health care providers, including health facilities defined under Health and Safety Code Section 1250, from granting immigration enforcement access to patients or nonpublic areas without a valid judicial warrant or court order. The bill would require health care providers to establish or update procedures, as well as inform staff and volunteers on how to respond to immigration enforcement requests. Additionally, it would expand the definition of “medical information” to include immigration status and place of birth, and it would define “immigration enforcement” to encompass efforts related to both civil and criminal federal immigration laws. Now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.