



March 27, 2025

MARCH UPDATE FROM FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA

Here in Sacramento, we are in the midst of two parallel processes – the budget process for the state’s 2025-26 spending plan and the first round of committee hearings for the 2,350 bills introduced in the Legislature in 2025.

Much uncertainty surrounds the budget process this year. One third of California’s spending each year comes from federal funds. The questions on everyone's mind: What will the impact be on California’s budget if there are federal cuts to Medicaid, food stamps and education and how will we deal with this potential crisis?

Decisionmakers are also anxious to see the Governor’s May revise of his proposed budget and in particular, the revised estimates of revenue including the personal income tax revenue that is so critical to California’s ability to balance the budget.

Believing that our state budget is a statement of our state’s values, FCLCA has been engaged in budget advocacy with the various budget subcommittees on issues ranging from providing additional funding for immigrant legal services in light of federal policies to additional investments in affordable housing and homelessness services to ensuring continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children under age 5. [You can see more of our budget advocacy here](#). We are also supporting efforts to increase revenue by more fairly taxing corporations that do business in California. Thank you for your support that allows us to participate in this critical budget process!

Your activism is important! I’d like to call your attention to our [Action Page](#) at www.fclca.org. There you will find events, lobby days, advocacy opportunities, and email action alerts on a variety of issues. I hope you will check this page frequently and take action on the issues that matter to you.

The bills introduced this year are now having their policy committee hearings in the house they originated in. FCLCA is weighing in on bills in the areas of health care, housing, immigration, workers’ rights, safety net measures for low-income Californians, prisoners’ rights, criminal justice reform and environmental issues. You can see some of the bills we are weighing in on by clicking on “Our Work” at www.fclca.org and selecting an issue area from the drop down menu. Once on the page, scroll down to see a list of bills - a link to the

bill number will take you to the bill language and the **MORE** link will take you to its current status.

A few highlights:

Environment

SB684/ AB1243 - The Climate Superfund Act will "ease the burden California taxpayers and families face while struggling to rebuild from climate disasters. It requires the world's biggest fossil fuel polluters to use their global profits to pay for damage their products caused the state. This bill requires the state to quantify climate damage costs to California, local and tribal governments, and residents. The state would then assess compensatory fees proportional to a polluter's past emissions... The bill sets a high threshold; it only applies to those entities that emitted more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gases from 1990 through 2024."

SB 222, the Insurance Affordability and Climate Recovery Act, 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.

Immigrant Rights

SB 48, restricts local educational agencies and local law enforcement agencies from assisting federal immigration enforcement officers on or near school grounds—providing additional protections for students and families to attend school safely. It will also prevent school personnel and law enforcement from sharing any information – formal or informal -- about students, their families, or households, with federal immigration officials.

Criminal Justice

AB 812 would authorize an incarcerated firefighter to request recall and resentencing under existing provisions and require the court to conduct a hearing to determine whether recall and resentencing would serve the interests of justice based on certain considerations.

AB 475 requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to develop a voluntary work program, eliminate mandatory work, and make all work voluntary for incarcerated persons not on death row.

Health Care

SB 363 requires health insurers to report to the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the Department of Insurance (CDI) any denials and modifications made to provider-recommended care. The bill aims to hold health insurers accountable for baseless coverage denials and provide the transparency needed to understand why denial rates are on the rise.

Housing and Homelessness

SB 33 establishes the the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program for homeless youth who are transitioning out of high school.

AB 736 would place the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 on the ballot for voter approval in June 2026 and which, if adopted, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 to finance programs to fund affordable rental housing and home ownership programs, including, among others, the Multifamily Housing Program, the CalHome Program, and the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program.

It's people like you that make FCLCA's work possible - Thank you again for your support and activism in this critical year!