

**Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation
Helene Hilger, PFYM Representative to FCNL
March 2020**

As PFYM’s liaison to FCNL, I attended the 2019 FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute November 13-17, 2019. (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-annual-meeting-2019-2467>). Some of the highlights of the Meeting included:



- Representing Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) at a Nov 13 session for those involved with state-based advocacy organizations. Four North Carolinians represented FCNCL at this meeting: Eric Ginsburg, Marian Beane, Christine Ashley, and I. Representatives from CA, WA, ME, IN, and OH shared information about their organizations. This was a very productive meeting for our NC team.



- Participating in the FCNL lobbying training and preparing lobbying presentations to Senators Burr and Tillis with our North Carolina lobbying contingent. I also teamed with Marian Beane to lobby Rep. Alma Adams, who represents both of us in Congress. The topic for this year’s lobbying thrust was repeal of the 2002 Authorization of Military Action (AUMF). We had 13 members in our NC team, and we met with staff members and not the senators themselves.
- Attending the FCNL Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The Business Meeting included reports from many standing committees; approval of the budget; approval of by-laws revisions; approvals of recommendations from the Nominating Committee; and discernment around and approval of the FCNL Statement of Legislative Policy (The World We Seek).
- Hearing from the FCNL lobbyists and the new FCNL cadre of interns. I attended sessions by Emily Wzirba (Environment and Climate Change); and Jose Santos Woss (Criminal Justice).

In addition to my Annual Conference attendance, I bring an appeal to PFYM members to assist them with policy priority discernment. Every two years, FCNL asks to Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, Quaker organizations, and individuals to help them discern their priorities for lobbying. They invite us to review their document called “[The World We Seek](#),” which describes public policy issues of concern to Quakers. You can read more about their discernment process [here](#). Please take this opportunity back to your Meeting. Our collective answers will form the foundation for lobbying priorities at the 2020 Annual FCNL Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene Hilger
Charlotte Friends Meeting
PFYM Representative to FCNL