

Addendum to FCNL's Statement of Legislative Policy Regarding Reproductive Health Care and Abortion

FCNL's Policy Statement, *The World We Seek*, serves as our foundational document, outlining FCNL's broad policy positions. After the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Policy Committee of FCNL's General Committee heard concern from Friends around the country about FCNL's lack of position on the issue of abortion.

In early 2023, the Policy Committee invited Friends to engage their meeting or church in worship and discernment about this issue. We received more than 300 responses, which guided the Policy Committee as they developed a recommendation. After much discernment, the General Committee approved the following language at its November 2023 Annual Meeting.

III.2.6. Health Care. Universal access to affordable, effective, comprehensive health care is a right and is necessary to allow all people to fulfill their potential. Comprehensive health care includes primary, acute, reproductive, and long-term care, including prescription drugs, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment. To ensure access, health services should be provided where an individual's needs can best be met. Our country can only maintain and improve the physical and mental health of its population with affordable health care that covers the entire life span, from prenatal to end-of-life care. Public health services, which protect us all, require robust federal support.

III.2.7. Reproductive health and abortion. Quakers recognize that human life is sacred, and that Spirit can guide us individually and collectively. Based on these beliefs, members of the Religious Society of Friends have come to different conclusions regarding abortion. FCNL supports individual discernment in a spirit of love and truth in making reproductive healthcare decisions, as we do in other areas of conscientious moral choice. Government must ensure that people have the legal right to make these decisions. We oppose the criminalization of people seeking, undergoing, or involved in abortion services. We support equitable access to abortion services. FCNL also supports policies that reduce unwanted pregnancies by ensuring equitable access to contraception, sex education, family planning, fertility and adoption services, and support for all who decide to have children.

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