

Report of members appointed to the Friends Committee on National Legislation

Some of us met with Senator Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk's staff both in Washington last November and in Chicago this spring. Our main emphasis was to promote more funding for peaceful prevention of conflict and less funding for the military. We were well received in each instance and encouraged to continue expressing our concerns.

Last summer, Congress and the White House enacted a budget deal that provided half of all budget cuts over the next ten years would come from military spending. Now, though, there is a move in Congress to shift these cuts from the military to Health Care Reform initiatives. FCNL staff is requesting that Meetings consider communicating their concern over this matter. We are requesting that ILYM approve a Minute and that individual Meetings consider the same.

Proposed Minute to be sent to Illinois Senators and Representatives.

We believe in peaceful solutions to problems. It has been shown that resources addressed to peaceful prevention of conflict, and rapid peaceful response to emerging conflicts is far more cost effective than military expenditure. Some have calculated that it is 60 times more cost effective. We urge you to use all the resources available to you to prevent elimination of the military spending reduction which is now scheduled to take effect Jan 1.

The Oak Park Monthly Meeting hosted a workshop in March led by David Culp, a senior staff member of FCNL. Ten persons received training in the various methods of witness to Congress.

We did a survey of Meetings this spring regarding whether they participate in monthly letter writing to their legislators. Only two Meetings out of 20 responded and of those only one Meeting was participating in the letter writing project.

Our team is sponsoring workshops at this yearly meeting on Thursday and Friday. Jim Cason of the Washington FCNL staff will be leading.

Speaking Truth to Power is a long Quaker tradition.

Prayerfully submitted,

Kevin Brubaker 2012

Brad Ogilive, Tom Simpson 2013

Wil Rutt 2014