

Minutes
FMSA Called Meeting for Business
April 23rd 2023

Attending:

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, Kara McGinnis, Jim Spickard, David Novogrodsky, Val Liveoak
- On Zoom: Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Lee Gugerty, Carol Redfield, Pam Spurgeon, Gretchen Haynes, Hector Cruz

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Proposed FCNL Policy Statement:

We seek a world in which all people who can give birth receive affordable, easily accessible, and comprehensive reproductive care without regard to age, including complete, accurate, and unbiased counseling; sex education; contraception; pregnancy care; post-partum and well-baby care; family and adoption support during and after pregnancy; and access to safe and legal abortion.

DISCUSSION: A Friend was concerned that true access to this healthcare would need to be readily available in the local community. Multiple Friends stressed that lack of access to safe abortion results in deaths.

A Friend suggested an introductory sentence to this policy to communicate the value we place on life, which is often cast as contradictory with allowing legal abortion.

A Friend pointed out that we placed abortion, the most contentious issue, at the end of our list of reproductive healthcare. The initial draft also reiterated “access to...abortion” while other services were simply listed.

One Friend felt equivalent policy statements had been approved in the 2000s and questioned why we needed the statement proposed today. Another Friend stressed that the importance of this statement to FCNL is to communicate the consensus that emerged in our March discussion and encourage placing abortion back in the context of a comprehensive reproductive health policy.

In response to much discussion over wording, Friends were encouraged to ensure our language is clear without being overly legalistic in an attempt to prevent bad-faith attacks.

One Friend wished to be recorded as standing aside on this policy for reasons expressed below. He is in unity with all but the last phrase of the original statement.

Edited FCNL Policy Statement:

Friends Meeting of San Antonio is a community which values life, possibility, and growth. As such, we seek a world in which all people who can give birth receive affordable, easily accessible, and comprehensive reproductive care without regard to age, including complete, accurate, and unbiased counseling; sex education; contraception; pregnancy care; post-

partum and well-baby care; family and adoption support during and after pregnancy; and safe and legal abortion in every community throughout the United States.

One Friend is standing aside from this policy because he concludes that personhood begins at conception and thus abortion violates the longstanding Quaker testimony that God resides in every person.

Friends approved the policy statement, with one Friend standing aside.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.