

Report on CFPA Lobby Day from CFPA Assistant Director Erica DeKranes, Ceasefire NJ Legislative Director Dolores Phillips, and Intern Alexa Dombrowski

CFPA had a successful day on Capitol Hill. We had a good mix of meetings- Republicans and Democrats, Senators and Representatives, New Jersey and Pennsylvania offices. Our legislative asks resonated with the staffers we met, particularly our concerns regarding the budget and NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act). In addition, Sen. Booker's staff was responsive to the Markey-Lieu bill (Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons), and several offices were interested in having further discussions with CFPA nuclear expert, Frank von Hippel.

Ceasefire NJ (a project of CFPA) Legislative Director Dolores Phillips successfully lobbied against H.R. 38 (Concealed Carry Reciprocity), a bill that greatly concerned both Republican and Democratic staffers. We were told that Sen. Booker supports our opposition, and Sen. Menendez is willing to take leadership on this issue. Most importantly, NJ Rep. Lance (R-7) agreed to vote no to H.R. 38 (in its current form).

It was an empowering day and the staffers we met with were knowledgeable and positive. It was also exciting to have some face time with several of our Congress people, and we look forward to continuing these relationships!

Report on CFPA Lobby Day from CFPA PA Director Ed Aguilar:

I was struck by the resonance, even with the Republicans, of the issue of complicity by the US, not just by huge arms sales to Saudis, but specifically by refueling in flight Saudi planes bombing civilians in Yemen. Nobody thinks complicity in war crimes is right, or consistent with our values. We should really push on the Yemen amendments on NDAA. The Senate debate on the arms sales set a good example. Finally, I'm glad that a representative from the United Nations Association was there. We plan to partner with them on the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons in the fall, and have asked Senator Casey to speak. It was a good day.

Comment on CFPA Lobby Day from long-time member Richard Moody:

It's so important that we drive home the true story of the USA's complicity on Yemen to the politicians also make the American public fully aware of the war crimes which we, as a Nation, are committing in their name. It was a successful day yesterday and I think we all made some good impressions on those we spoke to.

Notable Successes as of 7/24:

- Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ, 12) co-sponsored the Markey-Lieu Bill (Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons)
- Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ, 7) committed to oppose H.R. 38 (Concealed Carry Reciprocity) in its current form