

# FAITH ACTION NETWORK

*A Partnership for the Common Good*

Spring 2024

Dear Friend:

As I enjoy the annual, unfolding wonder of spring in gardens, forests, and farms, I ponder what nourishes us, the Faith Action Network, to flower and bear fruits of compassion, justice, and solidarity.

This season, many of FAN's faith communities have been nourished by the experiences of annual religious rituals – Ramadan, Easter, Vaisakhi Day, and Passover. In the past year, the FAN staff and Board have reflected more deeply on the values that undergird and nourish FAN's work, flowing from the faith/wisdom traditions of our diverse network. (See more in the enclosed annual report brochure.) FAN is also nourished by its vibrant, statewide network of advocates who are gathering in our annual summits this spring, and by our history of successes in the state legislature and other arenas. All of these, and your generous financial support, nourish and strengthen FAN so together we may bear fruit for the wellbeing of our communities and our planet.

We will need to draw on that nourishment for the months ahead of us. There are powerful forces within our state and nation that threaten the pluralism at the heart of American democracy and the religious diversity of our communities. These forces have contributed to increasing acts of hate, and we are experiencing efforts to enact legislation to dismantle hard-won rights and protections for diverse religious groups and the most vulnerable in our communities. FAN, with our multi-faith identity, stands as a strong counterpoint to these forces as together we advocate for each other and the wellbeing of all. Our public witness and our legislative work are needed more than ever!

**Recognizing this, the FAN board and staff are discerning how to grow FAN's capacity in the years ahead of us.** At the end of June, FAN will say goodbye and thank you to our Executive Director Elise DeGooyer who is moving on to her next chapter. In the past ten years, Elise has done so much to lead FAN to the multi-faith identity we share today. We have embarked on a process for finding our next leader and hope you will spread the word as the job is posted later this month.

Your financial gift this spring will show your support for FAN as we stand up for a multi-faith future for our state and for policies that support the flourishing of all. The FAN Board also invites special gifts to say THANK YOU to Elise for her gracious and steadfast leadership. Names of donors will be included in a special tribute as we celebrate our anniversary in June! Keep FAN strong by helping us meet our \$20,000 goal! **There are multiple ways to donate:**

- **ONLINE** at [FANWA.org](https://fanwa.org) using the red **DONATE** button!
- **BY MAIL** using the enclosed envelope
- **WORKPLACE GIVING: Does your employer offer a match?** FAN is a 501(c3) nonprofit eligible for workplace giving through many corporate platforms. Let us know!
- **PLANNED GIVING:** Please see our planned giving page at [fanwa.org/engage-support/planned-giving](https://fanwa.org/engage-support/planned-giving) and consider how your own plans align with FAN's commitment to the common good.

You helped make possible life-saving investments and positive wins that FAN supported during our 2024 fast-paced legislative session:

- **POLICIES** that will have tangible impacts in our communities, like a biased-incidents hotline and gun responsibility bills to enhance public safety, 100% zero-emission school buses to keep kids safe, and behavioral mental health programs for young people.
- **BUDGET** investments in the supplemental budget that will make a difference for our neighbors, including over \$500 million for budget items FAN supported.
- **SHOWING UP!** You attended FAN briefings, signed in Pro/Con for bills, and wrote hundreds of letters. More than 200 of you showed up in person for advocacy day, representing 37 districts and attending 96 legislative appointments! Hundreds of faith advocates attended our coalition partners' advocacy days and rallies. Together we showed up and lifted our voices.

**YOUR ADVOCACY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!** For the full list of successes this session, see: [www.FANWA.org/advocacy/legislative-agenda](http://www.FANWA.org/advocacy/legislative-agenda).



As we look ahead, November ballot initiatives threaten to dismantle the important victories of the past by repealing the capital gains tax, the climate commitment act, and Washington's long-term care program. We must stand together to protect our children, our elders, our communities, and our natural environment. FAN will be ready with resources to involve your communities in voting and civic engagement. And our regional organizing will reach out across our state for important conversations and action. Keep up to date through FAN's e-news in your inbox or at [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org).

**Please nourish FAN through your generous gift today**, so that we may continue to put our values into action—standing with and for each other in the challenging days ahead. On behalf of Faith Action Network Governing Board and staff, **thank you!**

In Hope,

Handwritten signature of Carol Jensen.

Rev. Carol Jensen, FAN Governing Board Chair