

The Peace and Social Action Committee would like the following Minute of Concern to be considered at the April 2023 Gwynedd Monthly Meeting for Business, so that it can be forwarded for consideration at Abington Quarterly Meeting on May 7, 2023.

### **MINUTE REGARDING PYM ADVOCACY POLICY**

In January, 2022 the Administrative Council of PYM passed an Advocacy Policy that impacts all advocacy work of the Yearly meeting, the quarterly meetings and each of the monthly meetings. Please see Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's web site to read the full policy. <https://www.pym.org/pym-policy-on-advocacy-explained/>

Much of the Advocacy Policy is not objectionable. For example, it encourages Friends to continue to advocate for issues that are consistent with Quaker testimonies as individuals and groups, short of specific legislation. Also, we do not corporately engage in partisan or electoral endorsements.

There are two major concerns with this policy:

1. The process through which the policy was adopted was not rightly ordered. It was accepted by the Administrative Council only, without input from the general membership at Sessions, despite requests from the Legislative Policy and Eco-Justice Collaboratives.
2. As written, the policy greatly impacts the corporate work of Friends at all levels. The definition of grassroots advocacy precludes Friends from encouraging others to advocate for specific legislation or to use any affiliated communication channels, programs or events. Friends have a long history of carrying their concerns to the world, both as individuals and together.

We would like to urge Abington Quarterly Meeting to ask PYM to bring this issue to the floor of Annual Sessions and to encourage other quarterly meetings to do the same.