

New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Most Reverend John C. Wester
Diocese of Las Cruces, Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino
Diocese of Gallup, Most Reverend James S. Wall
NMCCB Executive Director, Allen Sánchez
NMCCB Associate Director, Deacon Steve Rangel
P.O. Box 3243 * Los Lunas, NM 87031 * 505.319.3334

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2021

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Thursday, January 21, 2021 -- The Bishops are aware that there are hundreds of bills of proposed legislation. The Bishops bring their voice on issues for the common good, thereby making public their opinion on some legislation. The following is the Legislative Agenda for the 2021 Legislature.

SUPPORT HJR1, the Constitutional Amendment to use 1% of the Land Grant Permanent Fund for Early Childhood programs. Science has shown that the investment in programs for families and children from prenatal to 5 years old have extremely good benefits for the wellbeing of the children and life-long positive health outcomes. New Mexico's youngest children continue to rank 49th-50th in overall children's wellbeing. The status quo is not acceptable.

OPPOSE SB10, the Repeal of the Abortion Ban Statute. This legislation proposes to take off the state books a law, now suppressed by the US Supreme Court's ruling of Roe vs. Wade, which outlawed abortion in the state of New Mexico. The removal of this Statute has two other affects about which we should be very concerned which are not suppressed by Roe vs. Wade. First, the Statute today guarantees freedom of conscience for medical providers to not be forced to participate in abortions (religious right). Second, the Statute has exceptions to the law and, when there is an abortion under an exception, all procedures are required to be performed by a physician. We hope these remain in the law.

OPPOSE HB47, the Life Options Act. This legislation can place vulnerable persons in the position of losing their life due to human error or coercion. The determination for the diagnosis of days of life remaining has a high rate of inaccuracy. In the same way that we oppose the death penalty, human error is not acceptable, thereby rendering the Act of Assisted Suicide unethical.

OPPOSE the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana. The state of New Mexico is entrenched in poverty and addictions. There is great concern about persons driving under the influence and concern about adults parenting while under the influence.

SUPPORT SB66, the Small Loan Act to Cap the Annual Percentage Rate. This legislation proposes to lower the interest rate of small loans from 175% to 36%. This will have a positive impact for struggling New Mexicans trying to pay debt and will protect the public from predatory lending.

Bishops are vetting and reviewing other proposed legislation that may shortly be added to this list.--END