



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



**Gus Michael Bilirakis (REP)**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 12

**DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...**

<b>ABORTION FUNDING BAN:</b> Maintaining the prohibition on the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for elective abortions?	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<i>Optional Comments: I am a strong supporter of life who believes life begins at conception, and my voting record reflects that belief.</i>	
<b>ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:</b> Preserving the state option for Medicaid expansion, which would allow Florida to expand coverage in the future?	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<i>Optional Comments: This decision should be made at the state level.</i>	
<b>CONSUMER PROTECTION:</b> Capping the interest rate on consumer credit loans (e.g., payday loans and vehicle title loans) at 36%?	<b>NO RESPONSE</b>
<b>DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:</b> Repealing the federal government's use of the death penalty?	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT:</b> Investing federal funds in renewable energy innovation to mitigate harm to the natural environment?	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<i>Optional Comments: While I believe in investing in innovative, clean technologies, I do not believe the government should be in the business of picking winners and losers within this industry. Free-market principles should prevail.</i>	
<b>GUN CONTROL:</b> Restricting access to firearms by requiring universal background checks?	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<i>Optional Comments: Much like the majority of my constituents, I am a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment. Fundamentally, I do not believe that the best way to keep people from breaking the law and committing violent crime is to restrict the access of law-abiding citizens to firearms. I believe we have to address the root cause of the violence, such as mental health issues. I do believe we should explore mechanisms to further restrict access to weapons for those suffering from mental illness. I was proud to co-sponsor the STOP School Violence Act to help schools and law enforcement prevent, recognize and respond to warning signs of violence. I also helped secure more than \$2 billion in resources nationwide to strengthen school security and mental health initiatives. Additionally, I was proud to strengthen reporting requirements through the FIX NICS Act in order to ensure that criminals do not gain access to guns. I am the sponsor of the STAND-UP Act, supported by Sandy Hook Promise.</i>	
<b>HUMAN SEXUALITY:</b> Maintaining currently protected classes of individuals without adding new ones based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity"?	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>IMMIGRATION:</b> Achieving comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification and worker visas, secure our borders, and establish humane enforcement?	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<i>Optional Comments: As a second generation Greek American, I have a firsthand understanding of the importance and power of the American dream, as well as the sensitivity and passion surrounding immigration reform. There is no doubt our immigration system is broken and needs reform. We must not forget that we have an obligation to preserve the promise of the American dream for future generations. To do so, we must uphold the rule of law and ensure its equal application. This means that we must enforce current immigration laws, strengthen the borders, and ensure all visas are enforced properly. As part of a comprehensive package, I support DACA protections.</i>	

**INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Maintaining funding for U.S. international humanitarian and development assistance, which currently represents 1% of the federal budget?

**SUPPORT**

**PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT:** Providing individuals and businesses federal tax credits for donations to state-based scholarship programs for K-12 education?

**SUPPORT**