



**FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**  
*2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project*



**James "Jim" Pruden (REP)**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 22**

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

**ABORTION FUNDING BAN:** Maintaining the prohibition on the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for elective abortions? **SUPPORT**

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:** Preserving the state option for Medicaid expansion, which would allow Florida to expand coverage in the future? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: I don't support or oppose because the program is part of the ACA, which needs to be repealed and replaced. I will be advancing a proposed healthcare plan that would address both the class of individuals who receive Medicare benefits as well as address the issue of the middle class being uninsured by virtue of excessive premiums, excessive deductibles and loopholes in coverage.*

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** Capping the interest rate on consumer credit loans (e.g., payday loans and vehicle title loans) at 36%? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: I generally support a cap; however, I have not marked Support or Oppose because my final position on any legislation will be dependent on the text of the legislation itself. There have been too many instances of legislation being passed based upon a premise having merit, but the content of the legislation itself ended up doing more harm than good.*

**DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:** Repealing the federal government's use of the death penalty? **OPPOSE**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Investing federal funds in renewable energy innovation to mitigate harm to the natural environment? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: As with certain answers above, I have not marked Support or Oppose because my final position on any such legislation will be dependent on the text of the legislation itself and nature of the program. There have been too many instances of legislation being passed where funds are being directed to individuals and/or companies as political favors with no real intent of achieving a meaningful outcome.*

**GUN CONTROL:** Restricting access to firearms by requiring universal background checks? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: As with certain answers above, I have not marked Support or Oppose because my final position on any such legislation will be dependent on the text of the legislation itself. I generally favor universal background checks, but have seen proposed legislation that over reaches on that concept to the extent that it unreasonably infringes on 2nd Amendment rights.*

**HUMAN SEXUALITY:** Maintaining currently protected classes of individuals without adding new ones based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity"? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: As with certain answers above, I have not marked Support or Oppose because the existing protected class regulations and programs promulgated pursuant to the Civil Rights Act foster abuses to the extent that they have done more harm than good in a number of instances. That entire legislation and associated regulations and programs needs to be revised to ensure fairness and equity for everyone. Adding gender identity is not one of them.*

**IMMIGRATION:** 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?

**NO  
RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: I can't support or oppose this question as it involves a number of different issues. Again, my position on each of these will depend on the content of the proposed legislation. I generally favor certain paths to citizenship as well as secure borders. Worker visas is another complex issue that I would support in certain instances, but oppose in others. Humane enforcement is another broad subject that I could write pages on.*

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

**OPPOSE**

*Optional Comments: At this time, I would have to oppose such proposal. Our national debt has reached critical status. I have reviewed the CBO numbers and if we do not have a balance budget by 2027, our country will be at a point of no return. Meaning we would no longer have the ability to pay down the debt and we will be on an automatic path to bankruptcy, which will be of no help to anyone, either foreign or domestic.*

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

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: I support the concept with the qualification that any support for such legislation will be dependent on the text and content of the legislation itself.*