



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 57

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...

ABORTION LIMITS: Prohibiting abortion when a fetus has reached 20 weeks gestation and has the capacity to feel pain? **OPPOSE**

Optional Comments: My personal desire would be that there was no need for abortion. However, I also believe that women have the right to make this personal decision based on the advice of their medical provider.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: Increasing health coverage options for uninsured Floridians, especially the unemployed and the working poor? **SUPPORT**

Optional Comments: We desperately need to accept Medicaid expansion so that 850,000 Floridians have access to health care.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Using all state housing trust funds as intended to address affordable housing needs in Florida? **SUPPORT**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Authorizing courts to impose a sentence less than the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for nonviolent crimes? **SUPPORT**

Optional Comments: We should do away with mandatory minimums entirely and sentence those convicted of crimes based on the merits of their case.

DEATH PENALTY REPEAL: Ending Florida’s use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole? **SUPPORT**

Optional Comments: I would support amending our state's constitution to end the death penalty in Florida.

END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION: Preserving Florida law that bans doctor-prescribed suicide? **NO RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I believe that the patient should make end of life decisions based on medical advice. Having watched both my parents die of cancer while in Hospice care, I've gained an appreciate of end of life issues. I saw medication administered not to cure a disease, but to ease pain. The excellent palliative care my parents received was a blessing to them and our family. I do not personally support suicide, but we should allow the medical profession to set standards that allow for dignity in end of life situations.

FREEDOM TO SERVE: Allowing health care providers and workers the freedom to serve in accord with their conscience? **NO RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: As a 24-year Navy veteran, I knew that there could be times where my conscience might conflict with my chosen profession. Luckily, I was never in a position where I reached the point where I could not perform my military duties; if I had, I would have chosen to leave the military profession. I view this issue through the same lens. I believe that medical professionals should follow the standards set by their chosen profession. If their conscience conflicts with those standards, they may try to find a different way to serve or they may choose a different profession.

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT: Eliminating the requirement to attend public school the year prior to receiving a state scholarship for K-12 non-public schools? **OPPOSE**

Optional Comments: As a current middle school teacher, I see how learning gaps develop and grow quickly when students do not attend school. Unless the student is in an approved virtual or homeschool program, they should attend public school the year prior to moving to a non-public school. Problems that prevent a student from attending public school (such as bullying) must be addressed immediately.

PROTECTING WORKERS: Requiring drinking water, shade, and annual heat illness training be provided for farmworkers and other outdoor workers?

SUPPORT

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Respecting the autonomy of non-public schools to maintain policies that distinguish dress codes and other aspects of student life on the biological basis of sex?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I respect the autonomy of non-public schools, but if a school accepts public money, then it must follow general guidelines of nondiscrimination.