



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 21

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...

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|--|---------------------------|
| <p>ABORTION FUNDING BAN: Maintaining the prohibition on the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for elective abortions?</p> | <p>SUPPORT</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: I have dedicated my life to serving others. I am a man of faith and a patriot, who believes we have a responsibility to serve the best interests of our citizens. But some decisions involving our faiths must be left to the individual so we maintain the separation of church and state.</i></p> | |
| <p>ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: Preserving the state option for Medicaid expansion, which would allow Florida to expand coverage in the future?</p> | <p>SUPPORT</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: Access to healthcare is of vital importance to our citizens and our community. If the State has the ability to expand medicaid options, it would provide additional support or coverage to Federal options.</i></p> | |
| <p>CONSUMER PROTECTION: Capping the interest rate on consumer credit loans (e.g., payday loans and vehicle title loans) at 36%?</p> | <p>OPPOSE</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: The interest rate on consumer credit loans should not exceed 18-21%. While I support a cap on the interest rates on consumer credit loans, I oppose the high rate of 36%. I believe 18%-21% should be the maximum permitted under law. We outlawed debtor's prison for a reason, and a 36% interest rate is the metaphorical equivalent of imprisoning consumers.</i></p> | |
| <p>DEATH PENALTY REPEAL: Repealing the federal government's use of the death penalty?</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: In the 56 years before 2020, I believe the Federal Government had executed just 3 people including the Oklahoma city bomber.</i></p> | |
| <p>ENVIRONMENT: Investing federal funds in renewable energy innovation to mitigate harm to the natural environment?</p> | <p>SUPPORT</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: Renewable energy innovation is crucial in mitigating harm to the natural environment.</i></p> | |
| <p>GUN CONTROL: Restricting access to firearms by requiring universal background checks?</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: There should always be background checks prior to granting access to firearms. It is unclear what is meant by universal here.</i></p> | |
| <p>HUMAN SEXUALITY: Maintaining currently protected classes of individuals without adding new ones based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity"?</p> | <p>OPPOSE</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: In order to survive, our country and our laws must grow as we grow culturally. The Supreme Court recently ruled to expand the definition of gender identity. As the supreme law of the land, we must respect it unless and until the appropriate circumstances comes along to challenge it.</i></p> | |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>SUPPORT</p> |
| <p><i>Optional Comments: My wife is an immigration attorney, and very often she has exceptional candidates ask her for counsel on a pathway to citizenship. Our country was built on the sweat and hard work of immigrants. it is a class of prospective citizens who deserve our assistance when they are providing value to our country.</i></p> | |

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

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I will always advocate for international humanitarian efforts. Without looking at the overall budget allotment, and current effectiveness of programs, I cannot determine if 1% is too much, too little, or enough.

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

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: We should always be investing in our children's futures.