

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



May 12, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Please veto budget line item 500 – funding family planning providers for abortifacients

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The bishops of Florida share your goal of protecting unborn children in our state. We recognize that life begins at the moment of conception and, therefore, have concerns about abortifacients in addition to our concerns with surgical and chemical abortions. The budget recently passed by the Florida legislature includes a new \$2 million recurring appropriation for the Department of Health to contract with family planning providers to promote and provide Hormonal Long-acting Reversible Contraception (HLARC).

HLARCs have an abortifacient effect as they impede implantation of an embryo in the uterus. Three examples of HLARCs are hormonal intrauterine devices manufactured by Bayer: Mirena, Kyleena, and Skyla. The prescribing information documents for all three ^{1, 2, 3} acknowledge in section 12.2 that women continue to ovulate while using these products; conception still occurs. Section 12.1 of the prescribing documents states that studies suggest one of the HLARC mechanisms to prevent pregnancy is alteration of the endometrium. That is to say, it creates an inhospitable womb for the implantation and growth of the newly-conceived human being.

Due to HLARCs' likely abortifacient effect, we urge you to veto line item 500. We would be happy to discuss our concerns further at your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Sheedy
Executive Director

cc: Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, Bishop of St. Augustine and Respect Life Moderator
Ingrid M. Delgado, Associate Director for Social Concerns and Respect Life

¹ Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. (2020). *Mirena: Highlights of prescribing information*. Retrieved from http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Mirena_PI.pdf

² Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. (2018). *Skyla: Highlights of prescribing information*. Retrieved from http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Skyla_PI.pdf

³ Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. (2016). *Kyleena: Highlights of prescribing information*. Retrieved from http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Kyleena_PI.pdf