



July 12, 2019

My Dear People of God,

Earlier this week, after a remarkable grassroots campaign mounted by religious liberty advocates, California Catholics, as well as Catholics from across the country, Senate Bill 360 was pulled from the Assembly Public Safety Committee agenda. The withdrawal of the Senate Bill came the day before a scheduled July 9 hearing.

I am grateful to California State Senator Jerry Hill for removing Senate Bill 360 from any further consideration this year. I am also grateful to the California Assembly Public Safety Committee members for their careful thought, analysis and deliberation regarding this bill. Most of all, I am grateful to all of God's people for their efforts in making sure this bill would not be passed.

I would like to express my personal gratitude for the faith and devotion of individual Catholics, parishes, and organizations within the Diocese of Stockton. Thousands of phone calls, letters, and emails from Catholics in our diocese were made to lawmakers in Sacramento. Together we have done our part in protecting the seal of confession.

Senator Hill still has the option of bringing his bill up again next session but for now Senate Bill 360 is off the table. This is a win for the Catholic people of California and for believers of all faiths throughout the United States.

Our effort was worth it. It all made a difference, all involved made a difference. Thank you.

In Peace of Christ

Myron J. Cotta

Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

