

## TALKING POINTS FOR COUNCILS – AUGUST 2020

Worthy Grand Knights, Worthy Religious & Civil Rights Committee Chairmen, and Brothers all:

I offer the following Talking and Informational Points and Prayer for you to share with your council brother knights by email for the month of August 2020.

Also please appoint a council member to serve as R&C chairman.

### Religious & Civil Rights Issues

Brothers All

Please pray in these uncertain and divisive times for peace in our Nation and a resolve to promote that all lives matter! The Supreme Court ruled Monday, June 30, 2020 that Louisiana's tough restriction on abortions violates the Constitution, a surprising victory for abortion rights advocates from an increasingly conservative court. Please continue our prayers for our country and our Pro-Life cause. The 5-4 decision, in which Chief Justice John Roberts joined with the court's four more liberal justices, struck down a law passed by the Louisiana Legislature in 2014 that required any doctor offering abortion services to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles. Its enforcement had been blocked by a protracted legal battle.

Prayers in thanksgiving requested for the Supreme Court rejection of the Blaine Amendments. The Blaine Amendments, was a relic of open anti-Catholic prejudice in the late 1800s, more than three dozen states had such amendments (NJ did not have need for an amendment) to their constitutions banning any state funds from going to any sectarian school or institution. "Sectarian" was code for "Catholic."

Prayers in thanksgiving as the Supreme Court held that the Little Sisters should not be required to cooperate in providing contraceptive coverage to employees in their homes for the elderly under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Governor Murphy joined several other Democratic Governors and halted all elective procedures, but carved out an explicit exception for the performance of abortions. This action is not surprising since Governor Murphy is using \$20 Million of our tax dollars this year to subsidize Planned Parenthood, a private, non-profit organization that financially supports him and his party at election time. Please contact Governor Murphy and tell him he needs to reverse this decision. Tell him that abortion is an elective procedure and valuable resources and supplies should instead be utilized for urgent health care needs that will actually help save human lives.

Mailing Address: The Honorable Phil Murphy

Governor of the State of New Jersey

The State House

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Trenton, NJ 08625

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Email: <https://nj.gov/governor/contact/all/>

### **From New Jersey Catholic Conference - Action Alert**

Charities and nonprofits are on the frontline responding to our neighbors and communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, but risk catastrophic damage from evaporating revenue, new and rising demands for assistance, and major disruptions in charitable giving.

Tell Congress to act now and provide emergency aid to nonprofit organizations by expanding charitable giving and providing organizations with grants, loans, and tax credits.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/LjHW-Lrp75iCvseLG3sbKg>

**PROTECTING NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES** Governor Murphy's FY2020 budget maintained the rate of non-public school nursing services \$97.00 per pupil enacted by the Legislature in the Appropriations Act for FY2020. The Legislature placed money in Nonpublic Nursing Services last year to bring the amount to \$97.00 but that amount would still be insufficient to maintain increases in the Consumer Price Index which would permit the increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since the 1991-1992 school year, and this amount is insufficient to cover the cost of a full time nurse in many nonpublic schools, and that we call upon members of the Legislature to support the protection of the nonpublic school nursing services, and to increase the per pupil amount to at least \$125.00 in order to cover the increased costs in the salaries of nurses, the cost of requirements imposed by the Legislature, and the need to have a full time nurse in every school. Note: Legislators passed and NJ Governor Murphy signed an interim budget (July 1- Sept 30) authorizing \$3mm appropriation for Non Public School Nursing Services.

Catholic Schools Need Your Help! Catholic education has played an important role in lifting many from poverty to a more hopeful future. This mission is in danger as a result of the economic devastation facing many families across the country. Abrupt unemployment and lost income has meant that families suddenly find themselves unable to make the tuition payments that sustain our schools. Additionally, our parishes which normally provide financial support to the schools to keep tuition within financial reach for families have lost their Sunday collections with the halt to the public celebration of Masses. Please take a moment to contact your Members of Congress to ask for emergency aid to Catholic schools and our families in the next Covid-19 Legislation package. Our requests include: equitable access to K12 federal funds for Catholic schools, direct funding to families for tuition aid and tax breaks for K12 tuition payments. We encourage you to add your own personal story in the message as well. Catholic schools urgently need help in this time of uncertainty. By speaking with one voice, we can amplify this problem with Congress and provide help for our families. <https://www.votervoicenet/USCCB/Campaigns/74377/Respond>

See commentary Catholic Schools Are Worth Saving by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York; Cardinal Seán O'Malley the archbishop of Boston; Archbishop José Gómez the archbishop of Los Angeles

and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. to Leadership and Pres. Trump on Schools...

<https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/catholic-schools-are-worth-saving>

From Marie Tasy, NJRTL

There is a very informative article which appeared in a Town Hall on-line publication by Dr. David Prentice, who is Vice President and Research Director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute and Tara Sander Lee, Ph.D., a Senior Fellow and Director of Life Sciences for the Charlotte Lozier Institute. The article describes how some scientists and liberal media sources are again making false claims about the use of aborted fetal tissue in experiments and vaccines to combat COVID-19. This article provides some very helpful and useful information to counter those claims. Link to article <https://townhall.com/columnists/davidaprentice/2020/03/26/exploiting-a-crisis-unethicalexperiments-undermine-real-help-for-coronavirus-patients-n2565761>

The NJ Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (A152/S462) This legislation (A152/S462) will ensure that babies who survive an abortion will be given proper

medical care and treatment as any other baby born alive at the same gestational stage. Two motions to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Pain Capable and Born Alive bills both failed to reach the necessary 60 votes.

**MAINTAIN EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION SERVICES FOR NON PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS** - Equitable Title I services must be available for low-achieving nonpublic students whose residence of record (parents'/guardians' place of residence) is in a public school attendance area that receives Title I funds. This includes nonpublic students in Title I eligible, but not participating (skipped) attendance areas. Students who receive services must meet Title I criteria, and ESEA services are offered under the Child Benefit Theory, which was developed to comply with the Constitutional prohibition against federal funding to private schools. Equitable Participation Services for Non Public School Students and Teachers is required by "Governors' Emergency Relief Fund" (GEER). It is important for us to affirm our support of Equitable Participation Services for Non Public School Students and Teachers in the GEER Program and other recent federal aid to education as a result of the Corona virus crisis. NOTE Money has been distributed from the GEER program to NJ schools. NJ one of 8 states to receive funds.

On January 5th, Governor Murphy signed into law the bills NJ S3804/A5508 that expands insurance coverage for abortion and removes the religious exemption thus requiring church organizations to provide services and/or drugs which are contrary to God's law. Recommended Short term action plan 1. All brothers should upon receipt fill out the link to contact our US Senators. 2. DDs, GKs, and R&C Chairs should become familiar with the information contained in the email from the Supreme Knight sent in a recent blast. 3. GKs and R&C Chairs should take the lead and contact the Parish Respect for Life contact and the Pastor to help spread the word and help the parishioners also contact the Senators. 4. DDs, GKs, and R&C Chairs should take every opportunity to speak about these bills at events and in the community. 5. Be prepared to take further action when needed.

Longer Term Action: I think this will heat up very quickly and we should formalize the process that we put in place to address the "Religious Exemption" bills. I have learned much over the last few months and one key item is the need to contact legislators in person. We should work up a plan using K of C Resources to make local legislature contact.

Each Diocese along with the NJCC and their legal staffs is developing an impact assessment and the response and actions required going forward. This situation is very

serious for our Church and needs all our prayers. Please keep alert for updates and request to take action. Gov Murphy signed the Bill to Force NJ Taxpayers to Fund Planned Parenthood's Abortion Business. He ignored the objections of religious employers and signed Bill A5508/S3804 into law on January 16, 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the need for prayers is never as important as it is during these trying times. Governor Murphy's interim Fiscal Year 2021 Budget passed. The budget contains \$18,243 M in Non Public School Aid, \$8,234M aid for Non Public School textbooks and \$2,500M aid NP School Nursing Services.

Prayer in thanksgiving as U.S. Supreme Court voted for religious schools to be able to get public funding for their children's education.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

**Knights Prayer for Life Lord God**, I thank you today for the gift of my life, And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself Never to be silent, Never to be passive, Never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, And never to stop defending life Until all my brothers and sisters are protected, And our nation once again becomes A nation with liberty and justice Not just for some, but for all, Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Please share with friends and family!

NOTE, if your Council does not have an active Council Representative please appoint one ASAP. For Councils to use to appoint Council Representatives:

<https://www.njkofc.org/2020-2021-state-supreme-reporting-forms/religious-civil-rightsrepresentative-form/>

Be Safe!

Respectfully submitted

Andrew E. Lipenta, PSD, VSM

R&C Committee Chairman