



Action Alert - Protect the Seal of Confession

A bill in the North Dakota Senate would force priests to violate the seal of confession or face criminal fines and even jail time.

In the United States, people expect to exercise their religion, including going to confession or getting spiritual counseling, without

the government invading their privacy and religious rights. SB 2180 would force priests and other members of the clergy to reveal what is said during confession and spiritual counseling in cases of suspected child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse.

The Catholic Church is committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Clergy are already mandated reporters when the information is learned outside of the capacity of a spiritual advisor. The seal of confession, however, is inviolable. It can never be violated for any reason. All persons, of all faiths, should have this minimum expectation in the practice of their religion.

Act now to defeat this dangerous attack on our fundamental freedoms.

Who: [State Senate](#)

Where: [Senate Message Center](#) or [contact them directly by phone or email](#)—
<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/members/senate>

Sample Message: Please vote **No** on SB 2180. Protect religious freedom.

When: Now. The Senate Health and Human Services Committee will probably hear the bill the week of January 25 and the full Senate will vote on it after that.

Stay tuned for information on how you can submit testimony remotely and watch the testimony live.

Thank you!

