



Moderator of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

I typically do not send items on Friday's but this information from our Office of Life Issues and our Office of Public Policy about the proposed Maryland abortion amendment is important enough to send now, even though I understand this weekend is Appeal Weekend. I thank you, in advance, for your understanding.

Proposed Maryland Abortion Amendment

The State of Maryland has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the country, permitting legal abortion at any stage in pregnancy. A recently filed bill, HB1171, would enshrine abortion "rights" into the Maryland Constitution. While the bill was only filed last Friday, a hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Another extreme bill recently filed is HB626/SB669, which would effectively allow post-birth infanticide and extremely dangerous self-abortions; its hearing is set for Wednesday, February 23, 2022. This gives us very limited time to contact our legislators and make sure they know that Catholics oppose these bills.

Pastors are encouraged to share this information with their communities in the way they deem appropriate. We will continue to monitor this issue and provide additional information as it becomes available. For those pastors that wish to communicate with their communities this weekend, possible options could be:

Suggested pulpit announcement at the end of Masses this weekend:

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022 Maryland representatives will participate in a hearing to consider a new abortion amendment for the state that would enshrine abortion rights into the Maryland Constitution. While abortion is already generally legal in Maryland, this constitutional amendment would ensure that no future laws can restrict abortion for any reason. In order to stop this bill from becoming law, immediate action is needed.

To make your voice heard on this issue, contact your representatives immediately to tell them that you oppose the Maryland Abortion Amendment and the Pregnant Person's Freedom Act. Please visit the Maryland Catholic Conference website <https://www.mdccatholic.org/legislatorlookup> to search for your delegate and to find their contact information. Your voice can help to prevent this legislation from advancing beyond committee, but we all need to act now!

Suggested message to send to your parishioners via Flocknote:

The Maryland Abortion Amendment would enshrine abortion rights into the Maryland Constitution. Abortion is already legal in most circumstances in the State of Maryland, but this constitutional amendment would ensure that no future laws can restrict abortion for any reasons. This puts persons with disabilities at risk, because no future laws will be able to protect pre-born persons from discrimination on the basis of Down Syndrome or other diagnosis.

Maryland does not need another abortion law, it needs legislation to improve healthcare, education and anti-poverty measures for families and persons with disabilities. This bill does not represent the needs of our state, or the values of our voters. Please contact your senators and representatives today (visit the [Maryland Catholic Conference website](https://www.mdccatholic.org) to search for your delegate and find their contact information) to tell them that you oppose the Maryland Abortion Amendment (HB1171) and the Pregnant Person's Freedom Act (HB0626/SB0669).

Should you have questions, please reach out to:

Ms. Kathryn Yanik, Director of Life Issues at yanikk@adw.org or 301-853-5318.

Mr. Andrew Rivas, Manager of Public Policy at rivasa@adw.org or 202-683-1721.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to the coronavirus, adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/ for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia