

TOMORROW, FEB. 15: Catholic Advocacy Day in Maryland

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To:



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE



Archdiocese of Baltimore | Archdiocese of Washington | Diocese of Wilmington

Feb. 14, 2023

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## Show Your Love on Advocacy Day

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### Happy St. Valentine Day!

What a great way to show your love for your neighbors by participating in tomorrow's **Virtual Catholic Advocacy Day**, our state-wide kick-off to grassroots advocacy during the General Assembly session (which runs through mid-April).

We selected four priority topics to focus on this year. Keep reading to see the big reveal below.

## This Week in Annapolis

**BOOST funding** has been front and center, with parents lining up to testify at budget hearings last week and this week. These scholarships, which help low-income families in 21 Maryland counties send their children to a non-public school, are at risk of being defunded.

BOOST is one of our Advocacy Day issues so we hope you will join us and take action on Wednesday!

Also this week, a coalition of advocates that includes the Conference will hold a press conference (Thursday) to advocate for the **Youth Equity and Safety Act**, which would end **automatic** charging of youth as adults.



## Bill Reveal for Advocacy Day

The 2023 Advocacy Day topics are:

- **SUPPORT level funding for BOOST scholarships**, giving low-income families the opportunity to send their children to non-public schools.
- **OPPOSE an abortion constitutional amendment** that would enshrine abortion in the state constitution.
- **SUPPORT economic justice** through the Family Prosperity Act of 2023 and help make expanded earned income tax credits and child tax credits both more effective and permanent.
- **OPPOSE physician assisted suicide**, which would legalize the direct taking of human life and put persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable Marylanders at high risk.

[Learn more about these Advocacy Day topics here](#). And, on Feb. 15 (tomorrow), look for an email with a link to our Action Center. The center will have these four alerts. Just click, sign and send the pre-written emails to your Senator and Delegates on the issues that matter to you. It's a fast - and effective way to make your Catholic voice heard.

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## ADVOCACY DAY

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### How does Advocacy Day work?

We select pressing topics and write the message to be sent to state legislators. All you do is click and send the messages on the topics that matter to you. It's that simple!

(We also encourage you to share the links with fellow parishioners, family and friends to take action.)

### But it's not in person?

We started the annual virtual Advocacy Day in 2020 and found doing it this way allows hundreds of more Catholics across Maryland to take part so we are going to continue. Individuals are still encouraged to meet with their legislators if they can during session.

### How do you select the issues?

The General Assembly considers more than 2,000 issues during its three-month session. Our advocacy staff reviews every bill. For Advocacy Day, we select one or more critical topics from each of our three departments: Education, Youth and Family; Social and Economic Justice; and Respect Life.

### What happens next?

Throughout session, we will send new action alerts as important hearings or votes come up - but only if you are signed up for that department's alerts.

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## Of Note & in the News

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If you missed our **live town hall on curbing gun violence**, [watch the recording here](#). The link is also at [mdcatholic.org/stopviolence](https://mdcatholic.org/stopviolence).

## REMINDERS:

Join Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, for a special prayer service on Saturday, Feb. 25, 3 p.m., at the historic [Sacred Heart parish](#) cemetery, 16501 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, Md. The service will honor the African Americans who have been buried in the cemetery over the past 200 years.

Learn and take action at the 44th annual **Archdiocese of Baltimore Social Ministry Convocation** on Feb. 25 at Mercy High School. [Register here](#).

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*The Maryland Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church in Maryland. You received this email because you joined the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network, responded to an action alert or hold a ministry position in the member (arch)dioceses.*

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