



## FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida*

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 \* (850) 205-6820 \* [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org)

### **Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops: Yes on Amendment 6**

*“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139: 13*

A yes vote on Amendment 6 would prohibit spending of public tax dollars for abortion, or for health-benefits coverage that includes abortion, except for those limited instances required by federal law. It would also prohibit future interpretation of the Florida Constitution as giving greater rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution, and allow future legislation to strengthen parental rights by requiring parental consent for children seeking an abortion.

#### ***Limit Use of Public Dollars***

Several national surveys confirm that a majority of Americans polled believe it is wrong to use public funds for abortion. Precious health care dollars should be allotted to those who need them most – the disabled, children, elderly and others who do not have the luxury of health insurance to cover their critical health needs. Amendment 6 aligns Florida state law with existing federal law regarding limits on use of public funds for abortions or health care coverage that would include abortions.

#### ***Restore Parental Rights***

In 1989, the Florida Supreme Court used Florida’s “right of privacy” clause, Article I, Section 23, to give minor girls the right to choose an abortion without the consent of or notice to their parents. Parents are lawfully responsible for the physical care and education of their children and must give consent for many actions such as administering medication at school or body piercing. Yet a parent or guardian does not have to give consent for a minor to have a chemical or surgical abortion, a procedure with potential physical and psychological side effects. With respect to abortion, this proposed amendment would overrule court decisions which concluded that the right of privacy under Article I, Section 23 of the State Constitution is broader in scope than that of the United States Constitution.

Studies on adolescent brain development have shown that the part of the frontal lobe that controls impulses, anticipates consequences and prioritizes thoughts continues to develop into a person’s early 20’s. This is why states put age limits for minors on such activities as drinking and purchasing of tobacco products that will have harmful health effects. Passage of Amendment 6 will allow legislation to reinstate parental consent prior to a minor’s abortion so parents can decide personal decisions with their children without the interference of government.

#### ***Say “Yes on 6”***

Support for this proposal, which is aimed at increasing protection for women and the rights of families, is critical. Vote yes on Amendment 6 and continue to work, educate and pray that the laws of our nation will respect the life of every human being.

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you...”*  
*Jeremiah 1:5*

August 17, 2012