



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Candidate Questionnaire Project

2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE
Florida House of Representatives District 11

Nathcelly Leroy Rohrbaugh (DEM)

Do you support or oppose...

ABORTION REGULATION: Requiring parental consent before a minor child's abortion, notwithstanding previous judicial concerns?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *While I understand the good intentions behind proposals like this, we don't live in a perfect world. Many young girls end up pregnant through no fault of their own, are raised to be ashamed of sexual / reproductive issues, and may not feel safe talking to their parents. Some parents are verbally or physically abusive when they discover their minor child has become pregnant, and forcing these girls to get parental consent doesn't seem right to me. Government shouldn't be involved in these personal decisions.*

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: Increasing access to care for uninsured Floridians, especially the working poor?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *Over the last two years, our state legislature has cut Medicaid spending by over \$600M. Medicaid is meant to help the least of us when the unexpected happens. Tallahassee has also stood in the way of allowing the Medicaid expansion promised under the ACA to enter our state which would cover about 800,000 Floridians. We must do a better job of taking care of the least of us.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Using all state housing trust funds as intended to address affordable housing needs in Florida?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *This is a major issue in our state currently. We are experiencing a housing crisis because so many Floridians cannot find affordable housing. Even though we have the Sadowski Trust Fund which is supposed to be used to create affordable housing across the state, our government regularly raids the fund to fill gaps in the general fund. In the last 10 years, 50% of the money (\$1B) which should have gone to affordable housing has been misallocated.*

DEATH PENALTY REPEAL: Ending Florida's use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *The death penalty is barbaric and is not a form of justice. It is a form of retribution. Our justice system has lost its way in the past 50 years and seeks to punish people rather than rehabilitate them. Repealing the death penalty and investing in rehabilitation and re-entry programs in prisons is an important step in the right direction.*

END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION: Preserving Florida law that bans physician-assisted suicide?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *There are many debilitating diseases which are life sentences. I believe that it is more compassionate to allow people to choose when they die than to force them to suffer through a prolonged disease. If a person with Huntington's Disease, terminal cancer, Alzheimer's, or any other degenerative disease decides they want to set their own date of departure and leave on their terms while they are still capable of recognizing their loved ones and saying good-bye, we should recognize it as compassionate to allow them that choice.*

FREEDOM TO SERVE: Allowing individuals and organizations the freedom to serve the public in accord with reasoned conscientious beliefs related to sexuality and marriage?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *This is contrary to the principles our Founders articulated in the Declaration of Independence and enshrined in the Constitution. We are all endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, among them being life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To allow discrimination based on sexuality and marriage would be to impede the liberty and pursuit of happiness of our fellow Americans. Furthermore, I believe that it is contrary to how Jesus would have had us behave. None of us are without sin and none of us should judge how others live their lives.*

IMMIGRATION: Urging Congress to undertake extensive immigration reform, rather than adopting piecemeal state policies?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *Congress has failed for a generation now to reform our system of immigration. We must demand our elected officials begin tackling the difficult issues that face us instead of simply kicking them down the road and using them as campaign talking points.*

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Establishing that children under 14 shall not be transferred to the adult criminal justice system?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *I believe that no child should be transferred to the adult criminal justice system. Even a 17 year old cannot fully grasp the length of life ahead of them and the consequences of the decisions they are making. We need to be more compassionate to those who err and help them find their way to a better life for themselves and for their community.*

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT: Creating education savings accounts to use for nonpublic school tuition?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *This sounds like a good idea, but it is simply a tax haven for wealthy families. Our goal shouldn't be to make it easier for the children of wealthy families to get a better education, but rather to ensure that our public school system is preparing all of our children for a success in life.*

SAFETY OF SCHOOLCHILDREN: Expanding existing legislative initiatives to harden the physical security of nonpublic schools?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *We need to be more focused on the mental well-being of our children. These funds and initiatives will not solve the problem facing our society today. They merely make us feel better without addressing the crisis we face. Our children are suffering from depression and other mental disorders at a much higher rate than they used to. Many children are attempting suicide or lashing out at their peers and they need counselling. I fear for my kids as much as everyone else, but this is not a solution to our problems.*