



**FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**  
*2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project*



**Patricia M. Plantamura (DEM)**  
**FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 66**

**DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...**

**ABORTION LIMITS:** Prohibiting abortion when a fetus has reached 20 weeks gestation and has the capacity to feel pain? **SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: As a Christian (Roman Catholic) myself, I believe the "pro-life" stance to include taking COVID-19 deaths and health care consequences of same, seriously. Pro-life also includes other stages of life, including caring for lives of people suffering and dying from opioid abuse. Being pro-life necessitates health care provision. Toward this end, like most other states have already done, Florida must expand Medicaid.*

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:** Increasing health coverage options for uninsured Floridians, especially the unemployed and the working poor? **SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: The communicable characteristic of COVID-19 makes apparent that any person's health, can affect every person's health. In order to provide health care coverage to more people, thereby protecting all of society, Florida must expand Medicaid. Mental health care benefits were necessary before the pandemic. With high unemployment, workers have lost their employer provided health benefits. Stress with loss of income will necessitate mental health benefits for those families, too.*

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

*Optional Comments: Florida's Sadowski Funds must be used for affordable housing. State legislators must stop raiding these funds--using them for budget shortfalls in general revenue-- and instead use them for what they were intended, affordable housing. The need for affordable housing will be magnified with high unemployment from COVID-19. This will likely add to our homeless population.*

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** Authorizing courts to impose a sentence less than the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for nonviolent crimes? **SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: Similar laws have been changed in many other states. There should be discretion in sentencing. Releasing nonviolent offenders would save multi-millions of tax dollars used in incarceration. This money is better used elsewhere.*

**DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:** Ending Florida's use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: I am generally against the death penalty. Some crimes give pause for thought.*

**END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION:** Preserving Florida law that bans doctor-prescribed suicide? **SUPPORT**

**FREEDOM TO SERVE:** Allowing health care providers and workers the freedom to serve in accord with their conscience? **SUPPORT**

**PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT:** Eliminating the requirement to attend public school the year prior to receiving a state scholarship for K-12 non-public schools? **NO RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: I need more information to better answer.*

**PROTECTING WORKERS:** Requiring drinking water, shade, and annual heat illness training be provided for farmworkers and other outdoor workers?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: I grew up on a family farm doing outdoor work. What I expect for myself, I expect for others. This is human compassion. Farm workers are doing work which most people choose not to do. As a person of faith, I bless the hands of those people who provide the food on our families' tables. King James Bible: Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.*

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** Respecting the autonomy of non-public schools to maintain policies that distinguish dress codes and other aspects of student life on the biological basis of sex?

**SUPPORT**