



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 19

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: While studies show there is widespread dissatisfaction as well as contradictory beliefs regarding views on abortion policy, my resolve has never wavered. I do believe in a woman's right to choose, but not after fetal viability.

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

Optional Comments: Affordable and excellent healthcare for every human being is a God-given right. However, the reality is that people with money generally have better health and healthcare. As a former school principal, I saw firsthand how the health of young people served as a major barrier to learning. Healthcare is a fundamental right of all people.

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

Optional Comments: Affordable housing is also a fundamental right of all people, but those who are comfortable do not care about those less fortunate. When and until Americans realize that when one person is hurting, we are all, we will never make progress. "Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

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

Optional Comments: Mandatory minimum sentences must be reviewed and repealed as necessary. I spent the last five years of my 35-year career at Florida State Prison helping inmates earn a GED. It was the best and worst time of my life. The worst because I saw the school to prison pipeline in action. We gave up on these kids early on and they gave up on themselves. It was the best because the inmates inspired me through their perseverance to support and help each other in a tragic and inhumane environment.

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

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**

Optional Comments: "Faith in action is love and love in action is service."

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT: Eliminating the requirement to attend public school the year prior to receiving a state scholarship for K-12 non-public schools? **OPPOSE**

Optional Comments: As a veteran public-school administrator with several years of experience facilitating school improvement, I do not believe in state scholarships. I support public schools 100% and have not seen research that proves that student scholarship recipients fared better in the long run. I am not opposed to empowering parents to help their kids, but this can be better accomplished in a public school. With that said, there are fledgling public schools and there is no excuse for it because we know exactly what makes high performing schools. If they are not performing, they need new leadership.

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

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: Yes, I believe in humanity, respect and goodness of people.

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

Optional Comments: I am adamantly opposed to discrimination of all kinds. However, I do believe people have the freedom to choose. I implemented uniforms at my elementary school on a voluntary basis and the most of the kids loved it.