

End of Session Report

2018 Session of the Missouri General Assembly

This report gives the final status of MCC position bills. Bills reported as “Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed,” have been approved by the Missouri General Assembly and await action by the governor. The governor has until July 15, 2018 to sign or veto bills. After the July 15th deadline, the MCC will send a progress report detailing the governor’s action on Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed legislation.

PROTECT HUMAN LIFE

Abortion Drug Mandate

[HB 1338](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Legislation requires pharmacists to fill prescriptions for emergency contraceptives, which can cause abortions.

Remarks Oppose: "To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is a basic human right." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 74) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

[HB 2237](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Requires a pharmacy to fill a valid and lawful prescription for any FDA-approved drug or device to prevent pregnancy including emergency contraceptives without delay.

Remarks Oppose: "To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is a basic human right." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 74) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Abortion Funding/Prohibition

[HB 2010](#) (Amended bill: CCS SS SCS HCS HB 2010)

Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

To appropriate money for the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health and Senior Services, and several divisions and programs. Section 10.720 prohibits funding for abortion services and abortion agencies.

Remarks Support in part: Support Section 10.720, which ensures state tax dollars are not used to fund abortion services. Abortion is the taking of human life and Missouri taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion services. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 02/20/18

Bill History 5- 9-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Abortion Insurance Mandate

[HB 2084](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Requires all insurance plans to cover contraceptives at no cost to the individual.

Remarks Oppose: No one should be forced to pay for abortion drugs through their insurance premiums. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

[HB 2086](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Requires all insurance plans to cover abortion services at no cost to the individual.

Remarks Oppose: No one should be forced to pay for abortion drugs through their insurance premiums. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Abortion on Demand

[HB 1772](#)

Sponsor: Morgan, Judy (D)

Establishes the "Respect Women's Abortion Decisions Act".

Remarks Oppose: Legislation cloaks the real effect of this legislation, which is to overturn pro-life protections currently found in Missouri law, by the use of misleading rhetoric on "reproductive choices." 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Abortion Prohibition/Down Syndrome

[HB 1867](#)

Sponsor: Dogan, Shamed (R)

Prohibits certain selective abortions relating to sex, race, or Down Syndrome.

Remarks Support: Legislation continues the ongoing effort to create an abortion-free society. Children with Down Syndrome are gifts from God that should be cherished, not destroyed. "Sometimes it is feared that the child to be born would live in such conditions that it would be better if the birth did not take place. Nevertheless, these reasons and others like them, however serious and tragic, can never justify the deliberate killing of an innocent human being." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 58) 01/11/18

Bill History 4-11-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

[SB 724](#)

Sponsor: Sater, David (R)

Prohibits certain selective abortions relating to sex, race, or Down Syndrome.

Remarks Support: Legislation continues the ongoing effort to create an abortion-free society. Children with Down Syndrome are gifts from God that should be cherished, not destroyed. "Sometimes it is feared that the child to be born would live in such conditions that it would be better if the birth did not take place. Nevertheless, these reasons and others like them, however serious and tragic, can never justify the deliberate killing of an innocent human being." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 58) 01/11/18

Bill History 01-31-18 S Voted do pass from committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Abortion Reflection Period/Repeal

[SB 671](#)

Sponsor: Schupp, Jill (D)

Repeals the 72-hour waiting period prior to an abortion.

Remarks Oppose: Repealing the 72-hour reflection period before an abortion will promote hasty abortion decisions that victimize both mother and unborn child. 01/11/18

Bill History 01-10-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Abortion Safety Rules/Repeal

[HB 1854](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Repeals the provision requiring abortion facility physicians to have staff privileges at a hospital.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation jeopardizes women's health by repealing key provision of Missouri's abortion safety rules. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Abortion/Murder Conviction for Women

[HB 1751](#)

Sponsor: Pogue, Jeffrey (R)

Allows the death penalty for women obtaining an abortion.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation would allow for first degree murder convictions of women procuring abortions, thereby potentially exposing them to the death penalty. The Church opposes

both abortion and the death penalty. This legislation would only perpetuate a cycle of violence and retribution when what is called for is an intervention of mercy that will break this cycle and lead to redeemed lives and new hope. Civil authorities would do well to follow the example of the Catholic Church in promoting programs such as "Project Rachel" that help post-abortive women make a new start in life. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Abortion/Parental Notification

[HB 1383](#)

Sponsor: Miller, Rocky (R)

Changes the laws regarding consent for a minor to obtain an abortion.

Remarks Support: Legislation upholds the integrity of the family by ensuring that both parents are notified when one of their children is seeking an abortion. 01/11/18

Bill History 4-5-18 S Voted do pass from committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Alternatives to Abortion/Funding

[HB 2011](#) (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 2011)

Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.115 provides \$6.4 million for the Alternatives to Abortion (ATA) program.

Remarks Support in part: Support Section 11.115 that provides funds for the Alternatives to Abortion (ATA) program. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. "Thanks to the work of such centres, many unmarried mothers and couples discover new hope and find assistance and support in overcoming hardship and the fear of accepting a newly conceived life or life which has just come into the world." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 88) 02/20/18

Bill History 5- 9-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Assisted Suicide

[HB 1319](#)

Sponsor: Roberts, Steve (D)

Authorizes assisted suicide.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation authorizes assisted suicide, a practice that can never be morally justified. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, pars. 2276-2279) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Health and Mental Health Policy

[HB 1790](#)

Sponsor: Ellington, Brandon (D)

Authorizes assisted suicide.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation authorizes assisted suicide, a practice that can never be morally justified. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2276-2279) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Health and Mental Health Policy

Benevolent Tax Credits

[HB 1288](#) (Amended bill: SS#2 SCS HCS HBs 1288, 1377 & 2050) Sponsor: Engler, Kevin (R)

As amended by the House, this legislation reauthorizes a number of benevolent tax credits, including those for maternity homes, pregnancy resource centers, food pantries, court appointed children advocates, and child crisis centers.

Remarks Support: All of these credits merit reauthorization. They encourage charitable giving to women, children, and others in need of assistance. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

[SB 632](#) (Amended bill: HCS SCS SBs 632 & 675)

Sponsor: Dixon, Bob (R)

This legislation reauthorizes a number of benevolent tax credits, including those for

maternity homes, pregnancy resource centers, food pantries, court appointed children advocates, and child crisis centers.

Remarks Support: All of these credits merit reauthorization. They encourage charitable giving to women, children, and others in need of assistance. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Set on the House Calendar

Champion for Children Tax Credit

[SB 675](#) (Amended bill: SS#2 SCS HCS HBs 1288, 1377 & 2050) Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Extends the expiration date of the Champion for Children Tax Credit. Provisions found in HB 1288--Benevolent Tax Credits.

Remarks Support: This credit encourages charitable contributions to organizations that provide life-saving help to children at risk of neglect or abuse. The MCC supports this credit, along with pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes, as part of a seamless approach to caring for both unborn and born children who need assistance. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Concealed Weapons/Churches, etc.

[HB 1936](#)

Sponsor: Taylor, Jered (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the concealed carrying of firearms.

Remarks Oppose: "If this bill were to pass, churches wishing to remain gun free would have to post signage in their sacred spaces prohibiting guns. This is highly offensive to us and would violate our First Amendment rights to religious liberty. As the leaders of the Catholic Church in Missouri, we vigorously object to this change in Missouri law!" (Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference Regarding Gun Violence, April 3, 2018) MCC rejects the concept that arming all citizens is the best way to make our society safe. 4/3/18

Bill History 3-29-18 H Reported do pass House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

Death Penalty Repeal

[HB 1433](#)

Sponsor: Berry, T.J. (R)

Abolishes the death penalty in Missouri.

Remarks Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/11/18

Bill History 5- 7-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Crime Prevention and Public Safety

[HB 1695](#)

Sponsor: Unsicker, Sarah (D)

Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death before August 28, 2018, must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

Remarks Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Crime Prevention and Public Safety

[HB 2218](#)

Sponsor: Roberts, Steve (D)

Abolishes the death penalty in Missouri.

Remarks Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Crime Prevention and Public Safety

[SB 595](#)

Sponsor: Wieland, Paul (R)

Repeals the death penalty.

Remarks Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/11/18

Bill History 01-09-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-General Laws

Death Penalty/Jury Instructions

[SB 996](#) Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Modifies the jury instructions in first degree murder cases by not allowing the judge to override a deadlocked jury with a sentence of death.

Remarks Support: Support legislation as way to scale back the use of the death penalty, a practice which undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. 02/20/18

Bill History 3-12-18 S Hearing conducted

Death Penalty/Mental Illness Exemption

[HB 2509](#) Sponsor: Hannegan, Tom (R)

Provides that a person cannot be sentenced to death if he or she raises the issue that he or she suffered from a serious mental illness at the time of the commission of the offense.

Remarks Support: Support this proposal to exempt the seriously mentally ill from capital punishment. The MCC supports repeal of the death penalty, but also supports incremental steps to scale back the death penalty, such as proposed in this legislation. 04/27/18

Bill History 4-18-18 H Public Hearing Completed, House-Health and Mental Health Policy

[SB 1081](#) Sponsor: Rizzo, John (D)

Provides a procedure by which a defendant may be found to be not eligible for the death penalty due to serious mental illness.

Remarks Support: Support this proposal to exempt the seriously mentally ill from capital punishment. The MCC supports repeal of the death penalty, but also supports incremental steps to scale back the death penalty, such as proposed in this legislation. 04/27/18

Bill History 4-11-18 S Hearing conducted

Death Penalty/Threat to Society

[HB 1732](#) Sponsor: Merideth, Peter (D)

Requires a judge or a jury to determine if a person's life would constitute a threat to another or society prior to issuing a sentence of death.

Remarks Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) Legislation makes a step toward scaling back the use of capital punishment. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Judiciary

Domestic Violence/Protection

[SB 1051](#) Sponsor: Walsh, Gina (D)

Prohibits a person from possessing a firearm if they are subject to an order of protection or have been convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense.

Remarks Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 03/23/18

Bill History 3- 8-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

Endangering Welfare of Unborn Child

HB 1875

Sponsor: Taylor, Jared (R)

Creates the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree if a person knowingly misuses a narcotic drug while pregnant.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation addresses issue in a punitive manner rather than offering rehabilitative assistance to women. 02/20/18

Bill History 03-01-18 H Committee hearing cancelled House-Spec. Com./Improve Care of Young People

Human Trafficking Posters

HB 1246 (Amended bill: HCS HB 1246)

Sponsor: Pike, Patricia (R)

Requires certain locations and businesses to post information regarding human trafficking.

Remarks Support: MCC supports this effort to raise awareness of human trafficking as part of an effort to end human trafficking. The posters, which would be displayed in hotels, motels, airports, and many other public places, will provide information about how citizens can report suspicious human trafficking activities. 01/11/18

Bill History 03-02-18 G Signed by the Governor

Narcotics Control Act

HB 1619

Sponsor: Rehder, Holly (R)

Establishes the Narcotics Control Act.

Remarks Support: MCC supports the intent of this legislation to better regulate the use of prescription drugs and prevent "doctor-shopping" for addictive pain killers. "The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage to human health. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2291) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Insurance Policy

Pain Capable Abortion/Prohibition

HB 1266

Sponsor: Lichtenegger, Donna (R)

Establishes the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act".

Remarks Support: The MCC supports the effort to reduce abortions in the state of Missouri and to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/11/18

Bill History 4-25-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Pregnancy Resource Centers/Coercion of Speech

HB 2266

Sponsor: Lavender, Deb (D)

Requires organizations that provide pregnancy-related services to provide medically accurate information regarding reproductive health options in order to receive state funding.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation would force pregnancy resource centers to provide information about abortion options. This is contrary to the core mission of pregnancy resource centers and represents a violation of free speech. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Health and Mental Health Policy

SB 670

Sponsor: Schupp, Jill (D)

Violates the free speech rights of pregnancy resource centers by requiring them to educate on abortion.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation would force pregnancy resource centers to provide information

about abortion options. This is contrary to the core mission of pregnancy resource centers and represents a violation of free speech. 01/11/18

Bill History 01-10-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Right to Life/Repeal

[HB 2083](#)

Sponsor: Newman, Stacey (D)

Repeals the provision in state law stating that it is the intent of the General Assembly to grant the right to life to all humans, born and unborn.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation would repeal state law's general principle that Missouri will uphold the right to life for all human life, born and unborn. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Shackling of Pregnant Offenders/Prohibition

[HB 1627](#)

Sponsor: Evans, Jean (R)

Establishes protections for pregnant offenders and offenders who are in postpartum recovery while in custody at a correctional center or county or city jail.

Remarks Support: Missouri is one of only 10 states that does not have statutes or written policies prohibiting or restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders. Such practices demean the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk. 01/11/18

Bill History 4-26-18 H Voted do not pass from committee House-Corrections and Public Institutions

[HB 2026](#) (Amended bill: SCS HB 2026)

Sponsor: Wilson, Kenneth (R)

As amended, includes provisions prohibiting shackling of pregnant offenders and women in postpartum recovery.

Remarks Support: Missouri is one of only 10 states that does not have statutes or written policies prohibiting or restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders. Such practices demean the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 803](#)

Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)

Limits the use of physical restraints on pregnant or postpartum offenders. Provisions found in CCS HCS SS SB 870.

Remarks Support: Missouri is one of only 10 states that does not have statutes or written policies prohibiting or restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders. Such practices demean the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk. 01/11/18

Bill History 02-01-18 S Hearing conducted

[SB 870](#) (Amended bill: CCS HCS SS SB 870)

Sponsor: Hegeman, Dan (R)

Modifies provisions of law relating to emergency medical services. As amended, prohibits shackling of pregnant and postpartum offenders.

Remarks Support: Missouri is one of only 10 states that does not have statutes or written policies prohibiting or restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders. Such practices demean the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Sterilization/Low Income Women

[HB 1240](#)

Sponsor: Stacy, Dan (R)

Authorizes the Department of Health and Senior Services to establish a program to provide long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) to low-income women.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation has eugenics overtones in encouraging low-income women to take long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). (See *Humanae Vitae* for Pope Paul VI's prophetic concerns about radical population control measures.) In addition, LARCs have been associated with health concerns, including increased risk of depression, increased risk of STD and HIV transmission, and increased risk of side effects like ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, uterine perforation, and pelvic infection. IUD LARCs can also act as an abortifacient by preventing implantation. It is offensive that the state would establish a program promoting these dangerous devices to poor women who are vulnerable and need assistance, not exploitation. 01/11/18

Bill History 5- 7-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Health and Mental Health Policy

Tax Credit for Abortion Drugs

[HB 2093](#) Sponsor: Walker, Cora Faith (D)
Authorizes a tax credit for certain contraception costs.

Remarks Oppose: This legislation would promote an abortion culture by the use of abortion drugs. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

WELCOME AND ACCOMPANY IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Refugees Ban

[HB 1754](#) Sponsor: Pogue, Jeffrey (R)
Forbids the placement of refugees without the approval of the Missouri General Assembly.

Remarks Oppose: Refugees are people fleeing war and persecution in their native country. Missouri should act promptly to welcome these families into our state. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Special Committee/Homeland Security

ADVANCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Earned Income Tax Credit

[HB 1357](#) (Amended bill: HCS HB 1357) Sponsor: Kelley, Mike (R)
Authorizes an earned income tax credit in Missouri.

Remarks Support: By creating a State Earned Income Tax Credit, Missouri can assist the working poor and their families. Part of the effort to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (*Laborem Excercens*, par. 9, 10, 17-19) 01/11/18

Bill History 3-15-18 H Committee hearing cancelled House-Rules-Administrative Oversight

[SB 615](#) Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)
Establishes the Missouri Earned Income Tax Credit Act.

Remarks Support: By creating a State Earned Income Tax Credit Missouri can assist the working poor and their families. Part of the effort to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (*Laborem Excercens*, par. 9, 10, 17-19) 01/11/18

Bill History 1-23-18 S Hearing conducted

Elderly and Disabled/Tax Credit and In-home Care

[HB 1241](#) Sponsor: Lavender, Deb (D)
Changes the laws regarding the management of certain state revenues by sweeping certain funds and lowering the senior property tax credit maximum.

Remarks Support: The MCC supports the intent of this bill to preserve in-home care funding for elderly and disabled Missourians. The MCC also supports a continuation of the senior citizen circuit tax break. There may be other ways in which the Missouri budget can continue funding in-home care other than the sweeping of funds proposed in this legislation. "Each person must have access to the level of well-being necessary for his full development. The right to the common use of goods is the 'first principle of the whole ethical and social order' and 'the characteristic principle of Christian social doctrine'." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, par. 172) "The principle of the universal destination of goods requires that the poor, the marginalized, and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern." (*Compendium*, par. 182) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Budget

Food Stamps/Unborn Children

SB 1017 Sponsor: Wieland, Paul (R)
 Modifies provisions relating to the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Remarks Support: Support expanding food stamp benefits to unborn children and pregnant women. Good nutrition is essential to prenatal care and providing additional food stamp assistance will enable pregnant women to better care for their unborn children. 03/23/18

Bill History 3- 7-18 S Hearing conducted

Food Stamps/Work Requirements

HB 1443 (Amended bill: SCS HCS HB 1443) Sponsor: Eggleston, J. (R)
 Prohibits temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) benefit cards from being used at ATMs or to access cash, and limits the items that may be purchased with TANF benefits. As amended, modifies provisions relating to work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Remarks Oppose in part: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to children. There are better ways to encourage work. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

HB 1486 (Amended bill: HCS HB 1486) Sponsor: Kelly, Hannah (R)
 Modifies provisions relating to work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Remarks Oppose: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to children. There are better ways to encourage work. 02/20/18

Bill History 4-25-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

SB 561 Sponsor: Sater, David (R)
 Modifies the law relating to work requirements for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Remarks Oppose: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to children. There are better ways to encourage work. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Medicaid Global Waiver

SB 562 Sponsor: Sater, David (R)
 Requires the Department of Social Services to apply for a global waiver for MO HealthNet.

Remarks Oppose: Any major change to Missouri's Medicaid program should follow, not precede, establishment of a new federal program. Part of the effort to ensure access to

affordable health care for all. (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, par. 166) 01/11/18

Bill History 01-08-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Merchandising Practices Act

HB 2089

Sponsor: Gregory, David (R)

Modifies provisions relating to tort actions, specifically unlawful merchandising practices, products liability claims, and venue requirements.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation should be amended in order to protect the poor from predatory lending and business practices. Government regulations in this area are appropriate in order to promote the common good and ensure fairness in economic transactions. 02/20/18

Bill History 3-05-18 H Public Hearing Completed, House-Special Committee/Litigation Reform

SB 832 (Amended bill: SCS SB 832)

Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Modifies provisions relating to tort actions, specifically unlawful merchandising practices, products liability claims, and venue requirements.

Remarks Oppose: Legislation should be amended in order to protect the poor from predatory lending and business practices. Government regulations in this area are appropriate in order to promote the common good and ensure fairness in economic transactions. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-18-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Minimum Wage

HB 1395

Sponsor: Carpenter, Jon (D)

Modifies provisions relating to the minimum wage.

Remarks Support with reservation: Support the intent of this legislation to raise the minimum wage. The current minimum wage is too low and all workers deserve a just wage in order to support themselves and their families. A just wage is one way to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2434) The MCC leaves policymakers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Workforce Development

SB 680

Sponsor: Hummel, Jacob (D)

Modifies provisions relating to the minimum wage.

Remarks Support with reservation: Support the intent of this legislation to raise the minimum wage. The current minimum wage is too low and all workers deserve a just wage in order to support themselves and their families. A just wage is one way to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2434) The MCC leaves policymakers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/11/18

Bill History 02-27-18 S Hearing conducted

SB 801

Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)

Modifies minimum wage law.

Remarks Support with reservation: Support the intent of this legislation to raise the minimum wage. The current minimum wage is too low and all workers deserve a just wage in order to support themselves and their families. A just wage is one way to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2434) The MCC leaves policymakers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/11/18

Bill History 02-27-18 S Hearing Conducted Small Business and Industry Committee

MO Rx/Funding

[SB 563](#) (Amended bill: HCS SB 563)

Sponsor: Sater, David (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the MO RX Plan.

Remarks Support: MCC supports ensuring funding for MO Rx program, which ensures low income seniors can purchase the prescription medications they need to stay healthy. 04/27/18

Bill History 5-11-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

Payday Lending Reform

[HB 1547](#)

Sponsor: Davis, Charlie (R)

Changes the laws regarding unsecured loans of \$750 or less, commonly known as payday loans.

Remarks Support: This legislation makes important first steps in protecting consumers from predatory lending. In his 2009 encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI said, "The weakest members of society should be helped to defend themselves against usury, just as poor peoples should be helped to derive real benefit from micro-credit, in order to discourage the exploitation that is possible in these two areas." 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Financial Institutions

Postpartum Care

[HB 2280](#) (Amended bill: SS SCS HCS HBs 2280, 2120, 1468 & 1616) Sponsor: Haefner, Marsha (R)

Expands MO HealthNet benefits for pregnant women to provide substance abuse treatment for up to one year after giving birth.

Remarks Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare, which can include substance abuse treatment for postpartum women. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1908) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

[SB 660](#) (Amended bill: CCS HCS SB 660)

Sponsor: Riddle, Jeanie (R)

Modifies the law relating to mental health. As amended by the House, extends postpartum care from 60 days to one year.

Remarks Support in part: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare, which can include substance abuse treatment for postpartum women. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1908) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Show-Me Healthy Babies

[HB 2011](#) (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 2011)

Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.555 provides \$15.7 million for the Show-Me Healthy Babies program. This includes funding for prenatal care and related services for pregnant women and their unborn children.

Remarks Support in part: Support Section 11.555 that provides funds for Show-Me Healthy Babies program, which is designed to provide improved access to prenatal care for expectant mothers and their unborn children. 02/20/18

Bill History 5- 9-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Social Innovation Grants

HB 2238

Sponsor: Mathews, Kirk (R)

Establishes the "Social Innovation Grant Program" to find alternative solutions for serving the state's vulnerable populations.

Remarks

Support: There are both moral and practical reasons for honoring the principle of subsidiarity and putting it into practice. Current public programs of assistance are very costly and do not always achieve their stated goals. The social innovation grant program can lead to not only more innovation and cost-savings, but also a greater respect for initiatives taken at lower levels of society. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1883 for principle of subsidiarity) 01/11/18

Bill History

5-1-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Education

SB 839 (Amended bill: CCS SB 819)

Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Establishes the Social Innovation Grant Program.

Remarks

Support: There are both moral and practical reasons for honoring the principle of subsidiarity and putting it into practice. Current public programs of assistance are very costly and do not always achieve their stated goals. The social innovation grant program can lead to not only more innovation and cost-savings, but also a greater respect for initiatives taken at lower levels of society. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1883 for principle of subsidiarity) 01/11/18

Bill History

5-18-2018 S Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed

UPHOLD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

"Marriage" Removed from Statute

HB 1434

Sponsor: Berry, T.J. (R)

Modifies provisions relating to marriage and replaces marriage licenses with contracts of domestic union.

Remarks

Oppose: "Although the dignity of this institution [marriage] is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures. 'The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life.'" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, par. 1603) This legislation represents a retreat from the effort to revitalize the institution of marriage, an institution essential to the preservation of society. 01/11/18

Bill History

5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Adoption Records Disclosure

HB 1713 (Amended bill: SCS HCS HB 1713)

Sponsor: Phillips, Don (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the Missouri Adoptee Rights Act.

Remarks

Oppose: A balance needs to be achieved that will protect the confidentiality of birth mothers while eventually providing reasonable access to birth records by the adoptee. 03/23/18

Bill History

5-18-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

HB 1714 (Amended bill: HCS HB 1714)

Sponsor: Phillips, Don (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the rights of adoptees.

Remarks

Oppose: A balance needs to be achieved that will protect the confidentiality of birth mothers while eventually providing reasonable access to birth records by the adoptee. 03/23/18

Bill History

4-11-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood Initiative

[HB 2011](#) (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 2011)

Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.115 provides \$2.5 million for the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative program.

Remarks Support in part: Support Section 11.115 that provides funds for the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative program, which encourages stronger marriages and assists absent fathers in reconnecting with their families and children. 02/20/18

Bill History 5- 9-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Church Space/Gun Regulations

[HB 1382](#)

Sponsor: Miller, Rocky (R)

Eliminates the requirement that concealed carry permit holders get permission from the minister or persons representing such religious organization in order to carry concealed firearms in churches or places of worship.

Remarks Oppose: As part of the principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow concealed weapons. 02/20/18

Bill History 3-13-18 H Public hearing completed

Nonprofit Financial Disclosures

[SB 676](#)

Sponsor: Eigel, Bill (R)

Requires not-for-profit entities and nonprofit corporations to make their financial statements available to the public if the entity enters into a contract or agreement with the state or any political subdivision.

Remarks Oppose: The bill includes vague language that could authorize overly intrusive government regulation of the financial affairs of nonprofit religious organizations. 02/20/18

Bill History 01-10-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Government Reform

Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations

[HB 2074](#)

Sponsor: Kelly, Hannah (R)

Prohibits public institutions of higher learning from discriminating against a religious student organization or denying a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association.

Remarks Support: College campus organizations should not be discriminated against based on their religious beliefs or practices. 02/20/18

Bill History 1-17-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-General Laws

Religious Liberty/Infringements

[HB 1360](#) (Amended bill: HCS HBs 1360 & 2100)

Sponsor: Hannegan, Tom (R)

Modifies provisions relating to unlawful discriminatory practices.

Remarks Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction; however, the proposed legislation could coerce individuals and businesses to act against their conscience in providing services related to same-sex weddings, anniversaries and similar events. This would violate religious liberty. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-16-18 H Voted do pass as substitute from committee on House-General Laws

[SB 753](#)

Sponsor: Schupp, Jill (D)

Remarks Bars discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction; however, the proposed legislation could coerce individuals and businesses to act against their conscience in providing services related to same-sex weddings, anniversaries and similar events. This would violate religious liberty.
01/11/18

Bill History 1-16-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Blaine Amendment Repeal

[HJR 55](#) Sponsor: Shumake, Lindell (R)
Proposes a constitutional amendment eliminating the prohibition on the use of public funds for the benefit of any religious or sectarian educational purpose.

Remarks Support: This proposal would amend the Missouri Constitution by repealing one of Missouri's infamous "Blaine Amendments," whose provisions discriminate against religion and religious schools. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Elementary and Secondary Education

Education Savings Accounts

[HB 1668](#) Sponsor: Swan, Kathy (R)
Creates an educational savings plan for K-12 educational expenses.

Remarks Support: Support intent of the legislation to give parents choices in where they send their child to school. "As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2229) 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Elementary and Secondary Education

Empowerment Scholarships

[HB 1639](#) Sponsor: Stacy, Dan (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Remarks Support with amendments: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children. The requirement that the child first be enrolled in a public school before applying for a scholarship is unnecessary and will be an obstacle to the participation of students already enrolled in private schools. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Elementary and Secondary Education

[SB 565](#) Sponsor: Emery, Ed (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Remarks Support with amendments: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children. The requirement that the child first be enrolled in a public school before applying for a scholarship is unnecessary and will be an obstacle to the participation of students already enrolled in private schools. 01/11/18

Bill History 01-08-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Education

[SB 612](#) (Amended bill: SCS SB 612) Sponsor: Koenig, Andrew (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Remarks Support with amendments: Support intent of legislation to expand educational

opportunities to children. The requirement that the child first be enrolled in a public school before applying for a scholarship is unnecessary and will be an obstacle to the participation of students already enrolled in private schools. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-18-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Parental Rights in Education

[HB 1294](#)

Sponsor: Reisch, Cheri (R)

Specifies that parental liberty to direct the upbringing, education, and care of his or her children is a fundamental right.

Remarks Support: Support upholding principle of the right of parents to direct the education of their children. "As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2229) 01/11/18

Bill History 5- 1-18 H Public hearing completed

Unmet Needs/School Children

[HB 1671](#) (Amended bill: SS#2 SCS HCS HBs 1288, 1377 & 2050) Sponsor: Swan, Kathy (R)

Expands the Champion for Children Tax Credit to include agencies providing assistance to school children for unmet needs of health and nutrition.

Remarks Support: The legislation will encourage charitable giving that assists school children with unmet needs for health and nutrition. The MCC especially finds the bill meritorious because it provides assistance in a non-discriminatory basis to all school children, no matter where they attend school. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Virtual Schools

[HB 1408](#) (Amended bill: HCS HB 1408)

Sponsor: Spencer, Bryan (R)

Modifies provisions relating to virtual education.

Remarks Support with reservation: Legislation retains current provision of law allowing both public and private school children to participate in virtual school courses. However, the proposed bill provides tuition assistance only to those enrolled in public schools. As a matter of fairness the bill should provide assistance to all resident children of taxpaying parents. 01/11/18

Bill History 3-06-18 S Public Hearing Held, Senate-Education

[SB 603](#) (Amended bill: CCS HCS SS SCS SBs 603, 576 & 898) Sponsor: Onder, Bob (R)

Modifies provisions relating to course access in virtual education.

Remarks Support with reservation: Legislation retains current provision of law allowing both public and private school children to participate in virtual school courses. However, the proposed bill provides tuition assistance only to those enrolled in public schools. As a matter of fairness the bill should provide assistance to all resident children of taxpaying parents. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

REFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE

"Raise the Age"/Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

[HB 1255](#) (Amended bill: HCS#2 HB 1255)

Sponsor: Schroer, Nick (R)

Requires children under the age of 18 to be prosecuted for most criminal offenses in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult.

Remarks Support: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A*

Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 01/11/18

Bill History 4-12-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

SB 800 (Amended bill: HCS SB 800) Sponsor: Libla, Doug (R)

Modifies provisions relating to termination of parental rights and consent to adopt petitions in juvenile courts. As amended by the House, raises the age for juvenile jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years old.

Remarks Support in part: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 01/11/18

Bill History 5-10-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

"Raise the Age"/Prostitution Expungement

SB 793 (Amended bill: HCS SB 793) Sponsor: Wallingford, Wayne (R)

Requires children under the age of 18 to be prosecuted for most criminal offenses in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult. As amended, includes expungement for certain prostitution convictions. See SB 792.

Remarks Support: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." In addition, the MCC supports expunging certain criminal records for prostitution. 01/11/18

Bill History 5-10-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Criminal Justice Reinvestment

SB 966 (Amended bill: SS SCS HB 1355) Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the administration of the criminal justice system.

Remarks Support: The legislation promotes restorative justice principles supported by the Church. In a restorative justice approach to crime, the offender is held accountable, the victim is restored, and the community plays a role in restoring the offender to society. 02/20/18

Bill History 5-17-18 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Early Parole/Older Inmates

HB 1359 (Amended bill: HCS HB 1359) Sponsor: Hannegan, Tom (R)

Authorizes the early parole of certain offenders over the age of sixty-five.

Remarks Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In *A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice* (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/11/18

Bill History 4-25-18 H Reported do pass House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

Ex-offender Employment

HB 2123

Sponsor: Reisch, Cheri (R)

Modifies provisions relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor and lottery tickets by persons found guilty of certain offenses.

Remarks Support: By opening up entry level jobs, such as working at service stations and restaurants, to ex-offenders, this legislation promotes restorative justice principles recognized in Catholic social teaching. 02/20/18

Bill History 02-27-18 H Public hearing completed

SB 900 (Amended bill: SCS SB 900)

Sponsor: Rowden, Caleb (R)

Modifies provisions relating to activities extended to persons found guilty of certain criminal offenses.

Remarks Support: By opening up entry level jobs, such as working at service stations and restaurants, to ex-offenders, this legislation promotes restorative justice principles recognized in Catholic social teaching. 02/20/18

Bill History 2-12-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

Minimum Prison Sentences

HB 1596

Sponsor: Higdon Jr., Galen (R)

Provides that certain mandatory minimum sentences may be discretionary and creates provisions when a person is eligible for a parole hearing.

Remarks Support: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/11/18

Bill History 2- 7-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Crime Prevention and Public Safety

HB 1739 (Amended bill: HCS HB 1739)

Sponsor: Smith-163, Cody (R)

Allows the court to depart from minimum sentencing provisions in certain circumstances.

Remarks Support: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/11/18

Bill History 5- 8-18 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

SB 748 (Amended bill: SCS SB 748)

Sponsor: Emery, Ed (R)

Allows courts to depart from a statutorily required minimum prison term when sentencing a defendant.

Remarks Support: In their 2000 statement, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/11/18

Bill History 3-12-18 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

Prostitution Conviction/Expungement

SB 792 (Amended bill: HCS SB 793)

Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)

Creates a procedure for the expungement of criminal records relating to prostitution. Provisions also found in HB 2026 and SB 793.

Remarks

Support: Expunging a conviction of prostitution is appropriate when the person was under the influence of an agent who threatened and intimidated them. "Prostitution does injury to the dignity of the person who engages in it, reducing the person to an instrument of sexual pleasure... Prostitution is a social scourge. It usually involves women, but also men, children and adolescents. While it is always gravely sinful to engage in prostitution, the imputability of the offense can be attenuated by destitution, blackmail, or social pressure." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2355) The Church supports restorative justice in which offenders are given the opportunity to successfully reenter society. (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, par. 403) Expungement of the conviction can help the person in this regard. 01/11/18

Bill History

5-17-18 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

Wrongful Convictions/Compensation

HB 1813

Sponsor: Smith-85, Clem (D)

Raises the daily amount a wrongfully imprisoned person may receive from \$50 to \$128.

Remarks

Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/11/18

Bill History

5-18-18 H Referred to House Committee on House-Crime Prevention and Public Safety