



News Release

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MCC Urges Governor Nixon to Save Low-Income Renters' Credit

MAY 10, 2013 JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is urging Governor Jay Nixon to veto a bill passed by the general assembly that would repeal a tax credit now available to low-income renters who are elderly or disabled.

In an action alert sent to Catholics statewide, the MCC noted that over 104,000 seniors on fixed incomes and people with disabilities from all corners of Missouri rely on the low-income renters' credit to help them with basic necessities, such as paying for medications and catching up on bill payments.

Currently, the credit is available to renters who are elderly (65 or older) or disabled and who have household incomes of \$27,500 or less if single, or \$29,500 or less if married. The average credit received is \$534 annually.

Catholic Charities agencies as well as the Jefferson City Samaritan Center currently help people complete tax forms so they can claim the low-income renters' credit.

Mike Hoey, the executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, said that the people who work closely with poor know how important this tax credit is.

"If you talk to the Catholic Charities folks or to Lou Defeo at the Jefferson City Samaritan Center, they will tell you story after story of how this credit has helped people," Hoey said.

Governor Nixon has the constitutional authority to veto bills. In this case, if he vetoes SB 350, his veto is likely to stand unchallenged. The Missouri House failed to pass the bill with a veto-proof majority.

"Governor Nixon can save this credit for our low-income seniors and people with disabilities," Hoey noted. He urged all Catholics to contact the governor and urge a veto on SB 350.

Messages to veto SB 350 can be sent Governor Nixon by calling (573) 751-3222 or by visiting <http://governor.mo.gov/constituents/> to email him.