

# MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



**Contact:**  
600 Clark Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
P: (573) 635-7239  
mocatholic@mocatholic.org  
www.mocatholic.org

## Missouri Bishops Oppose Legislation that Criminalize Women who have an Abortion

December 21, 2023, JEFFERSON CITY, MO - The Catholic Church has consistently been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard the fundamental principle of the right to life. Through its ministries and advocacy, the Church supports efforts to protect the unborn and to address the underlying social causes for abortion by expanding care and resources available to mothers. And for those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church offers healing and hope through its Project Rachel Ministries.

Legal efforts to punish women after an abortion are inconsistent with these fundamental principles and with the history of the pro-life movement. The Missouri Catholic Conference opposes any legislation that would seek to criminalize the mother. We respectfully ask members of the General Assembly to oppose such measures and to work on legislation that provides life-affirming resources for women and children.

### CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



*+ Mitchell T. Rozanski*

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
General Chairman  
Archbishop of St. Louis



*+ James V. Johnston, Jr.*

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



*+ Shawn McKnight*

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight  
Executive Chairman  
Bishop of Jefferson City



*+ Edward M. Rice*

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice  
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

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