

Illinois Legislative Update

During the fall veto session there are two items (see gray box) expected to come up that Catholic teaching views with a clear moral lens. You are encouraged to be well informed (and formed) by reading the linked supporting information, and then contact your legislator. Active engagement such as this, in addition to being well informed about positions of candidates in the upcoming elections (and then voting 😊!) is one of the important elements of faithful citizenship.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois has prepared a candidate survey for the position of **Illinois Governor**. Please visit [their website](#) to view the single page summary and also read the transcripts of the full interviews.

OPPOSE PENDING CIVIL UNIONS LEGISLATION (10/13/2010)

Governor Quinn has recently announced his intention to push for passage of a so-called Civil Unions Bill (Senate Bill 1716) in the November Veto Session.

This legislation provides that parties to civil unions have equivalent legal rights as married spouses, granting marriage rights to same-sex civil unions.

Please call your state representative and senator as soon as possible and ask them to vote NO on Senate Bill 1716!

To find out who your state representative is go to www.ilga.gov and click on the "Legislator Lookup" button in the lower right portion of the home page.

[Click here](#) for detailed talking points describing our opposition to Senate Bill 1716. [Click here](#) for a letter from the Illinois Bishops. Read [Promoting Civil Unions to Undermine Marriage](#) to understand how this process has played out across the country and how it is currently happening in Illinois.

SUPPORT ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Legislation to abolish the death penalty in Illinois will be considered during the fall veto session in Springfield (November 16-18 and November 29-December 2). The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) supports this legislation. The use of the death penalty when there are other means to protect our society, such as sentences of natural life without parole, weakens the respect for all human life.

Now is the time to end the death penalty in Illinois. Contact your state senator and state representative to urge them to support legislation to abolish the death penalty. A sample letter can be found [here](#).

You can go to the [Illinois State Board of Elections](#) to look up your elected officials or call our office at (312) 368-1066 or (217) 528-9200.

Please share the sample letter with family members, friends and fellow parishioners who may be interested. For example, the letter can be distributed at a parish respect life and/or peace and social justice committee meeting to encourage others to write their elected officials. If you have any questions or to let us know if you or others in your parish will be sending letters, please contact Marilou Gervacio at (312) 368-1066 or gervacio@catholicconferenceofillinois.org.

In addition, please visit the [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#), where you can find numerous materials on the abolition of the death penalty, including a one-hour educational workshop that can be conducted at your parish.

Thank you, Laurie Edwards, Respect Life Coordinator, Catholic Diocese of Belleville

May truth and love promote healing and wholeness!