

# CATHOLICS at the CAPITOL

## *LEGISLATIVE AGENDA*

The Catholic Church in Illinois advocates for many important issues based on Catholic Social Teaching.

**House Bill 6205 – Reproductive Health and Access Act (IL FOCA).** This legislation represents a radical departure from current Illinois law. The legislation requires public funding of abortion and contraception, undermines the Health Care Right of Conscience and Parental Notification statutes, provides special immunity protections to those performing abortions and requires “comprehensive” sex education be taught in every public school. **Oppose House Bill 6205.**

**Education Funding Issues.** The state’s poor fiscal condition led to significant cuts in education programs important to Catholic schools. CCI has and will continue to advocate for restored funding to the Illinois Textbook Loan, Educational Improvement and School Safety Block Grant, and Parent Transportation Reimbursement Programs. **Support House Bill 6096 and Senate Bill 3530.**

**Senate Bill 1716 - Civil Unions/Religious Freedom.** This legislation would provide benefits, associated with marriage, to a civil union defined as a legal relationship between 2 persons of either the same or opposite sex. Marriage exists between a man and a woman, as husband and wife, and should remain the only marital union that is legally valid or recognized. **Oppose Senate Bill 1716.**

**House Bill 5743 - The Ultrasound Opportunity Act.** This legislation would require abortion facilities to offer pregnant woman an opportunity to view a sonogram of her unborn child on site or at a local provider. **Support House Bill 5743.**

**Senate Bill 2494 – Tuition Vouchers.** Senator James Meeks (D-Chicago) introduced this legislation to give students in the worst inner-city Chicago public schools vouchers to instead attend nearby private schools. We believe parents are the primary educators of their children and the state should do all it can to offer the best educational opportunities possible. **Support Senate Bill 2494.**

**Support English and Adult Education for Immigrants.** English proficiency and adult education assist immigrants to better integrate and participate in their communities and work. **Support maintenance of state funding for English and adult education.**

**Maintain the Social Services Safety Net.** Last year, social services were at risk of severe funding cuts. Considering the economic challenges the state continues to face, human services are again in danger. However, care to the poor and vulnerable must be a priority, and the State should foster partnerships with nonprofit agencies as budget decisions for human services are made. **Oppose cuts to human services funding.**

**House Bill 5687 and Senate Bill 3569 - Abolish the Death Penalty.** CCI supports the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. The safety of others and protection and defense of human life can be accomplished through alternatives to the death penalty, such as sentences of natural life. House Bill 5687 and Senate Bill 3569, if enacted, will replace the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole. **Support House Bill 5687 and Senate Bill 3569.**