End of Session Report
2017 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, 2017 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 371 Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Establishes the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act that mandates the filling of prescriptions for abortion drugs.
Remarks Oppose: Legislation requires filling of prescriptions for emergency contraceptives, which can induce abortions. “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) 02/07/17
Bill History 01-05-17 H Read second time

HB 372 Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Requires a pharmacy to fill prescriptions for emergency contraceptives, which induce abortions.
Remarks Oppose: Legislation requires filling of prescriptions for emergency contraceptives, which can induce abortions. “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) 02/07/17
Bill History 01-05-17 H Read second time

Abortion Funding/Prohibition

HB 10 (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 10) Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)
As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for the Department of Mental Health, Board of Public Buildings, and Department of Health and Senior Services. Section 10.714 prohibits funding for abortion services and abortion agencies.
Remarks Support in part: Support Section 10.714 that prohibits funding for abortion services and abortion agencies. 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.
Bill History 05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

HB 11 (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 11) Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)
As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for the Department of Social Services. In the general title of the legislation, prohibits funding for abortion services and abortion agencies.
Remarks Support in part: 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.
Bill History 05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed
**Abortion Inspections/Fetal Remains**

**HB 194** (Amended bill: HCS HB 194)  
Sponsor: Franklin, Diane (R)  
Modifies provisions of law relating to abortion, including donation of fetal tissue, tissue reports, abortion reports, employee disclosure policies, and abortion facility inspections. As amended, strengthens parental notification requirements prior to abortion.

**Remarks**  
Support: Legislation will provide greater protection to women and ensure the abortion industry does not donate fetal remains of unborn children. "The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of his life is always morally evil and can never be licit either as an end in itself or as means to a good end." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 57) Also support parental notification prior to abortion. 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
05-11-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

**HB 456**  
Sponsor: Swan, Kathy (R)  
Changes the laws regarding abortion. Includes regulation of the disposal of fetal tissue and requirements for inspections of abortion facilities.

**Remarks**  
Support: Legislation will provide greater protection to women and ensure the abortion industry does not donate fetal remains of unborn children. "The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of his life is always morally evil and can never be licit either as an end in itself or as means to a good end." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 57) 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
02-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

**HB 602**  
Sponsor: Brattin, Rick (R)  
Changes the laws regarding abortion.

**Remarks**  
Support: Legislation will provide greater protection to women and ensure the abortion industry does not donate fetal remains of unborn children. "The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of his life is always morally evil and can never be licit either as an end in itself or as means to a good end." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 57) 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
02-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

**SB 67**  
Sponsor: Onder, Bob (R)  
Modifies provisions of law relating to abortion, including donation of fetal tissue, tissue reports, abortion reports, employee disclosure policies, and abortion facility inspections.

**Remarks**  
Support: Legislation will provide greater protection to women and ensure the abortion industry does not donate fetal remains of unborn children. "The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of his life is always morally evil and can never be licit either as an end in itself or as means to a good end." (*Evangelium Vitae*, par. 57) 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

**Abortion Prohibition/Down Syndrome**

**SB 96**  
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) 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
Abortion Reflection Period/Repeal

**HB 368**
Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Modifies several provisions relating to abortion, including eliminating the 72-hour waiting period, physician privileges, and ambulatory surgical center requirements.

**Remarks**
Oppose: Repealing the existing 72-hour reflection period before an abortion will promote hasty abortion decisions that victimize both mother and the unborn child. Other provisions would also jeopardize the safety and health of women at the expense of the abortion industry. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
01-05-17 H Read second time

**SB 71**
Sponsor: Schupp, Jill (D)
Modifies several provisions relating to abortion, including eliminating the 72-hour waiting period, physician privileges, and ambulatory surgical center requirements.

**Remarks**
Oppose: Repealing the existing 72-hour reflection period before an abortion will promote hasty abortion decisions that victimize both mother and the unborn child. Other provisions would also jeopardize the safety and health of women at the expense of the abortion industry. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
01-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Abortion Regulations/Repeal

**HB 369**
Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Repeals various regulations governing abortion clinics.

**Remarks**
Oppose: Passage of this legislation will make abortion facilities even more unsafe than they are already. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
01-05-17 H Read second time

Abortion Sanctuaries/Prohibit

**HB 174** (Amended bill: SCS HCS HB 174)
Sponsor: Hubrecht, Tila (R)
Pre-empts local municipal ordinances seeking to create an "abortion sanctuary". Also protects the free speech and operations of Alternatives to Abortion agencies.

**Remarks**
Support: Legislation will overturn a St. Louis ordinance making the city an "abortion sanctuary". Legislation will also pre-empt other communities from passing similar ordinances. In addition, the free speech and free operations of pregnancy resource centers should be protected, as proposed by this legislation. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

**HB 989**
Sponsor: Christofanelli, Phil (R)
Prohibits certain political subdivisions from establishing themselves as sanctuaries for abortions.

**Remarks**
Support: Support the intent of the legislation to preclude local municipalities from adopting ordinances creating an "abortion sanctuary". 01/06/17

**Bill History**
03-29-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

**SB 41**
Sponsor: Wallingford, Wayne (R)
Senate Substitute pre-empts local municipal ordinances seeking to create an "abortion sanctuary". Also protects the free speech and operations of Alternatives to Abortion agencies.

**Remarks**
Support: Legislation will overturn a St. Louis ordinance making the city an "abortion sanctuary". Legislation will also pre-empt other communities from passing similar ordinances. In addition, the free speech and free operations of pregnancy resource centers should be protected, as proposed by this legislation. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
Abortion/Government Coercion

HB 376  Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Prohibits an employer from taking an adverse employment action based on an employee’s reproductive health care decision. Prohibits religious organizations from making employment decisions in accordance with their moral and religious beliefs and practices.

Remarks  Oppose: This legislation would violate individual rights of conscience and the religious freedom of various religious organizations. Government should not force individuals and religious organizations to aid and abet the work of the abortion industry. 01/06/17

Bill History  01-05-17 H Read second time

Abortion/Out of State Educational Materials

HB 382  Sponsor: Anderson, Sonya (R)
Requires referrals for out of state abortions to be accompanied by specified printed materials.

Remarks  Support: Legislation ensures women considering out of state abortions receive the same educational material required to be provided to women considering in-state abortions. Part of the effort to create an abortion-free society. 01/06/17

Bill History  02-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

SB 230  Sponsor: Riddle, Jeanie (R)
Requires referrals for out of state abortions to be accompanied by specified printed materials.

Remarks  Support: Legislation ensures women considering out of state abortions receive the same educational material required to be provided to women considering in-state abortions. Part of the effort to create an abortion-free society. 01/06/17

Bill History  05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Abortion/Parental Notification

HB 326 (Amended bill: HCS HB 326)  Sponsor: Miller, Rocky (R)
Requires both custodial parents to be notified when their daughter is seeking an abortion. Provisions also amended on HB 194.

Remarks  Support: Legislation upholds the integrity of the family by ensuring that both custodial parents are notified when one of their children is seeking an abortion. 02/07/17

Bill History  05-12-17 H Set on the House Calendar

Alternatives to Abortion/Funding

HB 11 (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 11)  Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)
As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for Department of Social Services. Section 11.120 provides over $6.3 million to fund the Alternatives to Abortion (ATA) program.

Remarks  Support in part: Support Section 11.120 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) 01/06/17

Bill History  05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed
**Assisted Suicide**

**HB 1222**
Sponsor: Roberts, Steve (D)
Establishes the Death with Dignity Act to allow patients with terminal illnesses to end their life. 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) 02/07/17

**Bill History**
03-02-17 H Read second time

**HB 524**
Sponsor: Ellington, Brandon (D)
Establishes the Death with Dignity Act to allow patients with terminal illnesses to end their life. 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) 02/07/17

**Bill History**
03-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Health and Mental Health Policy

**Death Penalty/Repeal**

**HB 1029**
Sponsor: Unsicker, Sarah (D)
Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death before August 28, 2017, must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

**Remarks**
Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life and errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/06/17

**Bill History**
02-27-17 H Read second time

**HB 135**
Sponsor: Berry, T.J. (R)
Repeals the provisions that allow the use of the death penalty in Missouri.

**Remarks**
Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life and errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/06/17

**Bill History**
01-05-17 H Read second time

**SB 277**
Sponsor: Wieland, Paul (R)
Repeals the death penalty.

**Remarks**
Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life and errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2267) 01/06/17

**Bill History**
01-19-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-General Laws

**Designated Health Care Decision Maker**

**HB 144** (Amended bill: HCS HB 144)
Sponsor: McGaugh, Joe Don (R)
Establishes the "Designated Health Care Decision-Maker Act".

**Remarks**
Amend per position: In allowing for decision making by loved ones, the legislation should protect the best interest of incapacitated persons. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
05-02-17 S Hearing conducted

**SB 493**
Sponsor: Hegeman, Dan (R)
Authorizes a health care decision-maker to make health care decisions for an incapacitated patient who does not have a person with legal authority to consent for the patient.

**Remarks**
Amend per position: In allowing for decision making by loved ones, the legislation should protect the best interest of incapacitated persons. 01/06/17

**Bill History**
04-10-17 S Hearing conducted
Dismemberment Abortion/Ban

HB 537
Sponsor: Hubrecht, Tila (R)
Establishes the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.
Remarks
Support with amendments: MCC supports amendment to include a ban on all forms of second trimester abortions. Part of the effort to protect human life. 02/07/17
Bill History
02-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

Narcotics Control Act

HB 90 (Amended bill: CCR SS HCS HBs 90 & 68)
Sponsor: Rehder, Holly (R)
As passed by the House, required the Department of Health and Senior Services to establish a program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedule II through Schedule IV controlled substances; required dispensers to electronically submit information to the Department; and, allowed doctors and pharmacists to access the information. As passed by the Senate, added amendments limiting the prescription drugs to be monitored and required a patient’s information to be purged after 180 days. (The House and Senate failed to reconcile their differences and the bill did not pass.)
Remarks
Support: The MCC supported the House-passed version of HB 90 because the legislation, if passed, would have allowed physicians and pharmacists to ensure they were not prescribing narcotic drugs to drug abusers. “The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2291) 01/06/17
Bill History
05-12-17 H Set on the House Calendar
SB 314 (Amended bill: SCS SBs 314 & 340)
Sponsor: Schatz, Dave (R)
Establishes the Narcotics Control Act.
Remarks
Support: Legislation will allow physicians and pharmacists to ensure they are not prescribing narcotic drugs to drug abusers. “The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2291) 01/06/17
Bill History
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Pain Capable Abortion/Prohibition

HB 757 (Amended bill: HCS HB 757)
Sponsor: Christofanelli, Phil (R)
Prohibits abortions of unborn children capable of feeling pain.
Remarks
Support: Support the overall intent of this legislation to reduce abortions in the state of Missouri. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion.
Bill History
03-08-17 H Reported do pass as substituted House-Children and Families
HB 908 (Amended bill: HCS HBs 908 & 757)
Sponsor: Lichtenegger, Donna (R)
Establishes the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act".
Remarks
Support: Support the overall intent of this legislation to reduce abortions in the state of Missouri. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion.
Bill History
05-12-17 H Set on the House Calendar

Pregnancy Resource Centers and Maternity Homes/Tax Credits

HB 655
Sponsor: Engler, Kevin (R)
Reauthorizes tax credits for contributions to maternity homes and pregnancy resource centers.
Remarks
Support: Both of these credits merit extension as they encourage charitable giving to programs that provide essential assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies. 01/06/17
Bill History
05-12-17 S Placed on Informal Calendar
SB 15
Sponsor: Dixon, Bob (R)
Reauthorizes tax credits for contributions to maternity homes and pregnancy resource centers.

Remarks
Support: Both of these credits merit extension as they encourage charitable giving to programs that provide essential assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies.
01/06/17

Bill History
01-31-17 S Hearing conducted

Sex Education/Abortion Providers

SB 370
Sponsor: Newman, Stacy (D)
Revises Missouri's current pro-life, pro-family sex education curriculum. Allows abortion providers to teach in public schools.

Remarks
Oppose: Legislation would repeal the pro-life, pro-family focus of sex education currently authorized in Missouri law. 01/06/17

Bill History
01-05-17 H Read second time

Shackling of Pregnant Offenders/Prohibition

HB 351 (Amended bill: HCS HB 351)
Sponsor: McGaugh, Joe Don (R)
Modifies provisions relating to the detention and shackling of juvenile offenders and detention and shackling of pregnant offenders.

Remarks
Support: Missouri is 1 of only 10 states that has no 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. 01/06/17

Bill History
05-12-17 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 180 (Amended bill: SCS SB 180)
Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)
Limits the use of physical restraints on pregnant or postpartum offenders.

Remarks
Support: Missouri is 1 of only 10 states that has no 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. 01/06/17

Bill History
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

WELCOME IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Illegal Reentry/Immigrants

SB 34 (Amended bill: HCS SS SB 34)
Sponsor: Cunningham, Mike (R)
As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, an omnibus crime bill that includes provisions creating the crime of illegal reentry. A person commits the crime of illegal reentry if he or she has been removed from the United States due to the violations of certain federal crimes and thereafter illegally reenters the state of Missouri and commits the offense of misdemeanor assault or domestic assault, or certain other violent felonies, or any crime committed in another state that would be considered an offense of misdemeanor assault or domestic assault, or certain other violent felonies under Missouri law. Illegal reentry is punishable as a Class C felony.

Remarks
Oppose: Oppose targeting a select group of people for enhanced crimes not imposed on others, as is done by creating the crime of "illegal reentry". 04/07/17

Bill History
05-12-17 H Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed
Refugee Resettlement Funding

HB 11 (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 11) Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for the Department of Social Services. Section 11.140 provides $3.8 million to fund refugee resettlement services including English as a second language services, citizenship and naturalization assistance, and job placement assistance.

Remarks
Support in part: Support Section 11.140 that funds refugee resettlement programs. Part of the Biblical imperative to "welcome the stranger." "A particular category of war victim is formed by refugees, forced by combat to flee the places they habitually live and to seek refuge in foreign countries. The Church is close to them not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity: 'Concern for refugees must lead us to reaffirm and highlight universally recognized human rights and to ask that the effective recognition of these rights be guaranteed to refugees.'" (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 505)

01/06/17

Bill History 05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

ADVANCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Earned Income Tax Credit

HB 109 (Amended bill: HCS HB 109) 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, pars. 9, 10, 17-19) 01/06/17

Bill History 04-20-17 H Reported do pass House-Rules-Administrative Oversight

SB 342 Sponsor: Holsman, Jason (D)

Establishes a Missouri Earned Income Tax Credit.

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) 01/06/17

Bill History 02-02-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Economic Development

Elderly and Disabled/Tax Credit and In-home Care

HCB 3 (Amended bill: SS HCB 3) Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, removes an earlier provision that would have repealed an existing tax credit for low income persons who are elderly and disabled. As passed, provides funds for programs offering in-home care to the elderly and disabled.

Remarks
Support: The MCC opposed the bill as introduced because it repealed a tax credit that provided vital assistance to low income seniors and people with disabilities; however, as passed, HCB 3 retains this tax credit. The credit needs to be reformed, which can be undertaken in a future legislative session. HCB 3 also provides continued funding for in-home care for the elderly and disabled, which allows people to stay in their homes rather than enter nursing homes. "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) 03/14/17

Bill History 05-12-17 H Third read and passed (Vote: Y: 83/N: 67)
**Medicaid Global Waiver**

**SB 28** (Amended bill: SCS SB 28)  
Sponsor: Sater, David (R)  
Requires the Department of Social Services to apply for a global waiver for MO HealthNet (Medicaid).

**Remarks**  
Oppose: The legislation proposes a global waiver at the very time Congress is considering major changes to Medicaid. We simply don't know at this time how Congress will restructure Medicaid. Bad planning on a new state Medicaid program could have a devastating effect on the elderly and disabled, for whom 65% of the Medicaid expenditures are allocated. Any major change to Missouri's Medicaid should follow, not precede, establishment of a new federal Medicaid program. 03/03/17

**Bill History**  
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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**Merchandising Practices Act**

**SB 5**  
Sponsor: Richard, Ron (R)  
Modifies provisions relating to tort actions, specifically unlawful merchandising practices, products liability claims, and venue requirements.

**Remarks**  
Amend per position: 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. 02/07/17

**Bill History**  
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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**Minimum Wage**

**HB 167**  
Sponsor: Peters, Joshua (D)  
Increases the state minimum wage to $15 per hour.

**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 to policy makers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
01-05-17 H Read second time

**HB 516**  
Sponsor: Ellington, Brandon (D)  
Increases the state minimum wage to $15 per hour.

**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 to policy makers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
01-10-17 H Read second time

**SB 254**  
Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)  
Modifies the minimum wage laws.

**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 to policy makers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/06/17

**Bill History**  
01-12-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Small Business and Industry
SB 91  
Sponsor: Chappelle-Nadal, Maria (D)

Modifies the minimum wage laws.

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 to policy makers to determine an appropriate level for a minimum wage; too high a minimum wage can discourage employers from hiring workers. 01/06/17

Bill History
01-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Small Business and Industry

Payday Lending Reform

HB 120  
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.” 01/06/17

Bill History
02-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Financial Institutions

Show-Me Healthy Babies

HB 11  (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 11)  
Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for Department of Social Services. Section 11.560 provides $13.9 million to fund 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 11.560 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. 01/06/17

Bill History
05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

UPHOLD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Domestic Violence Protections

SB 289  
Sponsor: Nasheed, Jamilah (D)

Allows tenants to terminate their lease or change the locks on the premises in certain situations of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

Remarks  
Support with amendments: Many victims of domestic violence lose their housing as they attempt to flee their abuser. This legislation will allow a tenant to terminate a lease so they can find new housing. The legislation needs amendment so that a landlord is paid rent for the time the tenant was renting from the landlord. 03/03/17

Bill History
02-28-17 S Hearing conducted

Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood Initiative

HB 11  (Amended bill: CCS SCS HCS HB 11)  
Sponsor: Fitzpatrick, Scott (R)

As Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, appropriates money for Department of Social Services. Section 11.120 provides $1.5 million to fund the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative federal program.

Remarks  
Support in part: Support Section 11.120 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. 01/22/16

**Bill History**
05-04-17 S Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed

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**DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

**Marriage Licenses/Replace with Domestic Unions**

**HB 62**

Sponsor: Berry, T.J. (R)

Changes the laws regarding marriage and replaces marriage licenses with contracts of domestic union.

**Remarks**

Oppose: The institution of marriage is already under great pressure and this legislation will only further undermine the institution and weaken the public expectation that couples commit themselves to each other for life. 02/14/17

**Bill History**
01-05-17 H Read second time

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**Religious Liberty Protections**

**SB 252** (Amended bill: SCS SB 252)

Sponsor: Dixon, Bob (R)

Revises Missouri Human Rights Statute to ensure religious organizations are free to operate according to their faith without being sued for allegations of discrimination. The bill addresses a decision of the Missouri Supreme Court which had effectively eviscerated any exemption for non-profit corporations, including religious organizations. (Although SB 252 did not pass, its provisions were included in other approved legislation—SB 43, which addressed discrimination in lawsuits. The MCC took no position on SB 43.)

**Remarks**

Support: Legislation ensures that religious organizations can practice their ministries without violating the deeply held tenets and convictions of their faith. 02/07/17

**Bill History**
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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**Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations**

**HB 642** (Amended bill: HCS HB 642)

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 and practices. This legislation protects the religious liberty of such organizations. 02/07/17

**Bill History**
05-12-17 H Set on the House Calendar

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**Religious Liberty/Infringements**

**HB 485**

Sponsor: Dunn, Randy (D)

Changes the laws regarding complaints filed with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights regarding discrimination based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

**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. 02/07/17

**Bill History**
04-18-17 H Public hearing completed

**SB 338**

Sponsor: Schupp, Jill (D)

Bars discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
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.
02/07/17

Bill History  02-02-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Judiciary/Civil and Criminal Juris.

PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Savings Accounts

HB 189  Sponsor: Swan, Kathy (R)
Creates an educational savings plan for K-12 educational expenses.

Remarks  Support: Support this legislation which gives 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) 02/07/17

Bill History  01-19-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Elementary and Secondary Education

Empowerment Scholarships

HB 868  Sponsor: Bahr, Kurt (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. Allows public school students to transfer to nonpublic schools using empowerment scholarships.

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. 01/06/17

Bill History  02-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Elementary and Secondary Education

SB 313 (Amended bill: SS#2 SCS SB 313)  Sponsor: Koenig, Andrew (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. Allows students with disabilities in public schools to transfer to nonpublic schools using empowerment scholarships.

Remarks  Support with amendments: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to special needs 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. 01/06/17

Bill History  05-08-17 H Voted do pass from committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

SB 32 (Amended bill: SCS SB 32)  Sponsor: Emery, Ed (R)
Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. Allows public school students to transfer to nonpublic schools using empowerment scholarships.

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. 01/06/17

Bill History  05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Language Assessments/Children

HB 481  Sponsor: Fitzwater, Travis (R)
Establishes a language assessment program for children from birth through the age of eight who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Remarks
Support with amendments: Support the intent of this bill to provide language assessments to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. However, the bill needs to make it clear that all resident school children who are deaf or hard of hearing, including those attending private or home schools, are eligible to receive the language assessment services. 01/06/17

Bill History
02-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Children and Families

SB 51
Sponsor: Walsh, Gina (D)
Establishes a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through the age of eight.

Remarks
Support with amendments: Support the intent of this bill to provide language assessments to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. However, the bill needs to make it clear that all resident school children who are deaf or hard of hearing, including those attending private or home schools, are eligible to receive the language assessment services. 01/06/17

Bill History
01-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Seniors/Families and Children

Parental Rights in Education

HB 354 (Amended bill: HCS HB 354) Sponsor: Bahr, Kurt (R)
Specifies that parental liberty to direct the upbringing, education, and care of his or her children is a fundamental right not subject to infringement without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest.

Remarks
Support: Support intent of this legislation to uphold the 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) 01/06/17

Bill History
03-08-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

Unmet Needs/School Children

HB 98 (Amended bill: HCS HB 98) Sponsor: Swan, Kathy (R)
Authorizes a tax credit to charitable foundations that address the unmet needs of school children for 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. 01/06/17

Bill History
04-13-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Administrative Oversight

Virtual Education/District Programs

HB 138 (Amended bill: SCS HCS HB 138) Sponsor: Spencer, Bryan (R)
Changes the laws regarding virtual education.

Remarks
Amend per position: Legislation retains current provision allowing private and home school children to participate in virtual school courses offered by local public school districts. However, the legislation proposes only tuition assistance for those enrolled in public schools. As a matter of fairness, the bill should provide assistance to all resident children of taxing parents. 01/06/17

Bill History
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

SB 238 Sponsor: Onder, Bob (R)
Modifies provisions relating to virtual education.

Remarks
Amend per position: Legislation retains current provision allowing private and home school children to participate in virtual school courses offered by local public school districts. However, the legislation proposes only tuition assistance for those enrolled in
public schools. As a matter of fairness, the bill should provide assistance to all resident children of taxpaying parents. The requirement that students meet with a school counselor is unnecessary and violates parental rights in education. Students and their families are best able to determine what virtual course programs their child should take.

Bill History
01/06/17

SB 327 (Amended bill: SCS Sbs 327, 238 & 360) Sponsor: Romine, Gary (R)

Modifies provisions relating to virtual education.

Remarks
Amend per position: Legislation retains current provision allowing private and home school children to participate in virtual school courses offered by local public school districts. However, the legislation proposes only tuition assistance for those enrolled in public schools. As a matter of fairness, the bill should provide assistance to all resident children of taxpaying parents. The requirement that students meet with a school counselor is unnecessary and violates parental rights in education. Students and their families are best able to determine what virtual course programs their child should take.

01/06/17

Bill History
05-12-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

**REFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Discretion in Criminal Sentencing**

HB 38 (Amended bill: HCS HB 38) Sponsor: Higdon Jr., Galen (R)

Provides that mandatory minimum sentences are now discretionary and creates provisions when a person is eligible for a parole hearing.

Remarks
Support: According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, punishment should serve 3 purposes: 1) address the disorder caused by the offense; 2) protect people's safety; and, 3) contribute to the correction of the guilty party. This legislation better reflects church teaching on the appropriate use of punishment in our criminal justice system. Passage of this bill will alleviate overcrowded prisons and allow more inmates to make a new start in life.

01/06/17

Bill History
04-13-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

**Early Parole/Older Inmates**

HB 726 Sponsor: Hannegan, Tom (R)

Authorizes the early parole of certain offenders over the age of 65.

Remarks
Support: Older offenders 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.”

04/07/17

Bill History
03-28-17 H Public hearing completed

**Juvenile Court Jurisdiction/”Raise the Age”**

HB 274 (Amended bill: HCS HB 274) 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." 01/06/17

Bill History 04-12-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

SB 40 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." 01/06/17

Bill History 01-30-17 S Hearing conducted

Release from Incarceration/Employment

HB 508 Requires the Department of Corrections to perform specified actions to improve the ability of working inmates to obtain employment upon release from incarceration.

Remarks Support: Support this legislation as a way to assist newly released inmates to obtain employment and make their way back into society. "Work is a good thing for man - a good thing for his humanity - because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed in a sense, becomes 'more a human being.'" (Laborem Exercens, par. 9) 02/07/17

Bill History 03-16-17 H Public hearing completed

Statute of Limitations/Elimination

HB 519 (Amended bill: HCS HB 519) Removes the statute of limitations on civil actions and criminal prosecutions involving offenses against children.

Remarks Oppose: Statutes of limitations are intended to encourage the resolution of legal claims within a reasonable amount of time. Eliminating the statute of limitations would permit cases to be brought after the death of witnesses and the spoliation of evidence, making it more difficult to mount a defense to the allegations of abuse. 02/07/17

Bill History 04-13-17 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

SB 352 Removes the statute of limitations on civil actions and criminal prosecutions involving offenses against children.

Remarks Oppose: Statutes of limitations are intended to encourage the resolution of legal claims within a reasonable amount of time. Eliminating the statute of limitations would permit cases to be brought after the death of witnesses and the spoliation of evidence, making it more difficult to mount a defense to the allegations of abuse. 02/07/17

Bill History 02-13-17 S Hearing conducted