

TALKING POINTS FOR COUNCILS - MAY 2018

Worthy Grand Knights, Worthy Religious & Civil Rights Committee Chairmen, and Brothers all:

I offer the following Talking & Action Points for you to speak about at your Council Meetings for the month of May 2018.

Also, if your Council does not have an active Council Representative please appoint one ASAP. Go to State Council website at www.njkofc.org

- **The Gestational Surrogacy bill, A1704/S482** passed both Houses of the Legislature and is now sitting on Governor Murphy's desk. If he doesn't sign, veto or conditionally veto it by May 28th, it will become law. Below are some reasons why this bill should be opposed: This legislation will legalize the commodification of children and exploitation of women. It poses the risk of developing a breeder class of women, who will be subjected to exploitation by brokers and agencies that have a financial interest in the passage of this law. The Assembly Sponsor Valerie Vaneri Huttel admitted at the 2/12 Assembly Women and Children's Committee that the intended parents will have the right to direct the birth mother to have an abortion or reduction of her pregnancy if they so desire. There are no restrictions or limitations on how many surrogate pregnancies a woman can have. The legislation is silent on the actual language that will exist in the contract, allowing surrogacy brokers to impose all types of unknown stipulations that cater to the whims and wishes of the intended parents and direct nearly every detail of the surrogate's life up to the moment of birth and surrendering of the child.

Action Needed:

Please email and Call Governor Murphy and tell him to Veto A1704/S482. Phone Governor Murphy: 609 292 6000 Email the Governor (copy & paste to your web browser)

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/> For drop down menu, select a topic, "Children and Families"

- **The NJ Physician Assisted Suicide bill, A1504/S1072** was released from the Assembly Judiciary Committee on March 12, 2018 after the Committee heard hours of testimony. Our sources tell us that the bill will be scheduled for a vote before the full Assembly on Thursday, May 24, 2018. Please view the Flyer AssistedSuicide_RVSD416 (003).PDF at (copy & paste to your web browser) [https://cqrcengage.com/njrtl/file/EHO2BUt2W7X/AssistedSuicide_RVSD416%20\(003\).pdf](https://cqrcengage.com/njrtl/file/EHO2BUt2W7X/AssistedSuicide_RVSD416%20(003).pdf) which lists various reasons to oppose this legislation, and then please take the following action below.

Action Needed:

Please call, email and schedule a meeting with your 2 State Assembly Members immediately and urge them to Vote No on A1504/S1072. The link to our Action Alert on the assisted suicide bill is <https://www.voterve.net/NJCC/Campaigns/57657/Respond>. All one has to do is click the link. There is a prewritten message that will be sent directly to their three legislators, once they enter their name and address.

There is also the option to add a message of their own. To find your legislator, go to the NJCC home page www.njcatholic.org and click on the Take Action button which is directly below the pictures. Once you are on the Faith-in-Action page, scroll down and enter your zip code under Find Your Legislator. (Note: you may be asked for your street address because more than one

legislator can serve a zip code.) The names of all of your elected officials will pop up and each name will have a link to their contact information.

- **The Child Marriage Ban Bill, A865/S427** passed the NJ Senate on April 12.

The bill is awaiting a hearing before the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Every state except NY that has taken up this legislation has added an exception to allow teenagers aged 16-17 to marry. However, even in NY, an amendment was added to allow an exception for 17 year olds to marry. You will recall that Governor Christie issued a CV of this bill last year suggesting that an exception be made for 16 and 17 year olds. Here is an excerpt from his conditional

veto:

"It is disingenuous to hold that a 16-year-old may never consent to marriage, although New Jersey law permits the very same 16-year-old to consent to sex or obtain an abortion without so much as parental knowledge, let alone consent," Christie wrote. "That inconsistency in logic undercuts the alleged logic of an outright ban."

(<https://www.politico.com/states/new-jersey/story/2017/05/11/ban-on-child-marriages-conditionally-vetoed-by-christie-111987>)

There is an abortion component to this bill, although not expressly stated. If a pregnant 16 or 17 year old wants to marry the father of her child and will be prohibited to because of this law, the only choice she will have is unwed motherhood or abortion. If there is truly a problem with the judicial system missing cases of forced marriages, than that needs to be addressed.

This is a one size fits all approach and it's flawed legislation. Abortion groups which include NOW and Planned Parenthood support the bill.

Please contact your 2 Assembly Members and urge them to Vote No on A865/S427 unless an amendment is added to allow pregnant 16 and 17 yr olds to marry.

Action Needed:

Please call, email and schedule a meeting with your 2 State Assembly Members immediately and urge them **to Vote No on A865/S427**. You can find your 2 state Assembly members at the Legislature's web page <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp> (copy & paste to your website)

You can also call the Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 during regular business hours to obtain the name and contact information of your 2 State Assembly Members.

- **Restore the ceiling for Nonpublic School Transportation** to \$1,000 per pupil instead of the \$884 per pupil contained in Governor Murphy's Budget.
- It is most unfortunate that Governor Murphy's Budget contained a return to the dollar amounts in transportation, nursing, services, and technology, while increasing the public school accounts over \$283 Million.

What we are asking support for:

1. Restore the ceiling for Nonpublic School Transportation to \$1,000 per pupil instead of the \$884 per pupil contained in Governor Murphy's Budget.
 2. Restore the funding levels for Nonpublic School Nursing Services and Nonpublic School Technology to those contained in the Appropriations Act for the 2018-19 school year.
- As you know, **H.R. 36, The Federal Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Bill** passed the U.S. House of Representatives on October 3, 2017 but did not pass the Senate vote. We should contact and urge Senators Menendez and Booker to vote for the late term abortion ban bill (HR 36).
 - Murphy also signed his second piece of legislation, which makes contraceptive available to women on Medicaid. You can find your State Legislators <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>
 - Prayer Vigil Outside Abortion Facilities One small way of taking action is to volunteer an hour or two each week with your local "prayer warriors" who hold vigils outside of local abortion facilities. The typical activities consist of holding signs, saying the rosary or other prayers, handing out brochures, or even talking to young women entering the facility. More information may be obtained at your County or Diocesan Respect Life office.².
 - **See highlighted reference to Cardinal Dolan's statement. Cardinal Timothy Dolan: Democrat Party Has "Slammed the Door" on Catholics By Worshiping Abortion**
<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/03/26/cardinal-timothy-dolan-democrat-party-has-slammed-the-door-on-catholics-by-worshiping-abortion/>
 - Legislative Reinstatement of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) which delays deportation of immigrants. This aligns what the Holy Father and the USCCB have supported.
 - Issues on Gun Control- SHARE Act, which not only make it easier to purchase silencers but also expand hunting on federal lands and roll back the endangered species act. Ban on assault rifles. Raise legal age to purchase guns to age 21.
 - School shootings and mental health issues.
 - Woman's Rights against Sexual abuse
 - Ongoing opioid addiction
 - The dual sensitivities of the harmful effects of legalizing marijuana – which is a drug – and also the need for society to address the disproportionate rate of incarceration among people of color
 - Pray the rosary every day for peace in our country and around the world. Opposing factions in this country and internationally have caused split or divisiveness seemingly beyond repair. Please pray to our Blessed Mother daily.

Respectfully submitted

Andrew E. Lipenta, PSD, VSM

R&C Committee Chairman

