

## Social Justice Legislative Tracker

### **Building and Sustaining Affordable and Emergency Housing SJ Committee Actively Advocating for a Bill**

**Action:** Support full funding of the Homes4All 2020 Legislative Agenda

**Social Justice Rationale:** Strengthening housing access for people affected by mental health issues, homeless youth, homeless families and low-income families protects vulnerable populations and eases stress on families in financial crisis.

*"The lack of safe, affordable housing requires a renewed commitment to increase the supply of quality housing and to preserve, maintain, and improve existing housing through public/private partnerships, especially with religious groups and community organizations." --*

USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2011

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/housing-homelessness/>

**Status:**

[https://www.senate.mn/bills/index.php?ls=&billnum=SF%201214&all\\_sessions=&display\\_links\\_only=&special\\_session=](https://www.senate.mn/bills/index.php?ls=&billnum=SF%201214&all_sessions=&display_links_only=&special_session=)

### **Care for Creation**

**Actions:** Support legislation that protects people and the planet

**Social Justice Rationale:** We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God's creation. <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation.cfm>

**Status:** The Minnesota Catholic Conference supported clean water bills last year

### **Health Care**

**Action:** Supporting legislation that addresses the life, conscience, immigrant access, market stability and affordability problems that now exist. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/health-care/letter-to-senate-on-replacement-for-affordable-care-act-2017-09-21.cfm>

**Social Justice Rationale:** Healthcare should be available and accessible to everyone, especially to the poor and vulnerable. <https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/healthcare/>

**Status:** <https://www.mncatholic.org/actioncenter/?vvsrsrc=%2fBills> (2019 session bills)

## **Human Trafficking**

**Action:** Support services like Safe Harbor Minnesota for victims of human-trafficking.

**Social Justice Rationale:** Anti-Trafficking laws and programs should be strengthened to discourage the growth of this criminal practice and support networks for both child labor and sex-trafficking victims. <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/the-catholic-church-and-human-trafficking-policy.cfm>

**Status:** Bill(s) that increase law enforcement efforts and victim services will be introduced

## **Life and Bio-Ethics**

**Actions:** Support all legislation that protects human life.

**Social Justice Rationale:** Human life is sacred from its beginning, it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the creator. [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a5.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a5.htm)

**Status:** <https://www.mncatholic.org/actioncenter/?vvsrc=%2fBills>

## **Mental Health Services**

**Action:** Support greater access to high quality health care services.

**Social Justice Rationale:** Public Policies must promote the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable populations, protecting them from abuse and neglect, while providing appropriate care and support.

“Whoever suffers from mental illness always bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they always have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such.” – Pope John Paul II

We encourage continued legislative prioritization of mental health care that embraces every human person as valued and filled with inherent dignity. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/health-care/upload/statement-murphy-mental-health-bill.pdf>

**Status:** <https://namimn.org/advocacy-legislation/legislative-updates/>

## **Migration**

**Action:** Supporting Immigrant Driver's License

**Social Justice Rationale:** Providing a just and well-regulated immigration system that prioritizes families and relief from suffering. “Our laws must also protect immigrants and refugees from all exploitation, and ensure that they can meet their families’ basic needs and not become a permanent underclass hiding in the shadows of society” – MCC  
<https://www.mncatholic.org/actioncenter/?vvsrc=%2fBills>

**Status:** <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF%20347&ssn=0&y=2019>

## **Predatory Lending Reform SJ Committee Actively Advocating for a Bill**

**Action:** Supporting a 36% interest rate cap for payday loans.

**Social Justice Rationale:** To ensure payday loans do not lead people into a destructive cycle of debt. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/poverty/domestic/upload/usccb-payday-cordray-cfpb.pdf>

**Status:** <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF1501&y=2019&ssn=0&b=house>

## **Prescription Drugs**

**Actions:** Support legislation to ensure all Minnesotans have access to affordable prescription drugs

**Social Justice Rationale:** The Church supports universal access to comprehensive benefits sufficient to maintain and promote good health.  
<https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/healthcare/>

**Status:** Waiting to see what legislation is introduced this session.

## **Preventing Gun Violence**

**Action:** Supporting Red Flag Legislation (allows family members or law enforcement personnel to petition court to prohibit firearm possession for people who are a danger to self or others)

**Social Justice Rationale:** “Gun violence is sometimes perpetrated by people struggling with mental illness, depression, or addiction, Minnesota must make a serious commitment to provide health services and support to those who are facing such challenges, as well as to their families and caregivers. (CCC: 2316; CSDC: 511)”  
<https://www.mncatholic.org/actioncenter/?vvsrc=%2fBills>

**Status:** <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/Info/HF9/91/2019/0>