

Social Justice Legislative Tracker

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

Principle: Support housing access for low-income, homeless and vulnerable people

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: Referred to Capital Investment Division House Committee awaits hearing

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=hf3326&b=house&y=2019&ssn=0>

Action: Support passage and full funding of HF 3326

Care for Creation

Principle: 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

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

Health Care

Principle: 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/?vvsrc=%2fBills> (2019 session bills)

Human Trafficking

Principle: Support legislation that combats human-trafficking and helps victims transition to productive and safe lives

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: HF 3780 awaits a hearing in the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division House Committee

HF 3070 awaits a hearing in the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division House Committee

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF3780&ssn=0&y=2020>

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=hf3070&b=house&y=2019&ssn=0>

Action: Support HF 3780 to strengthen training for and expand implementation of appropriate sex trafficking assessments to protect children

Support HF 3070 to strengthen criminal penalties for human trafficking offenses

Life and Bio-Ethics

Principle: 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

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

Mental Health Services

Principle: Support greater access to high quality mental 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/recent-legislative-updates/>

Action: Write M Health Fairview CEO James Hereford and ask him not to close St. Joseph’s Hospital and the 105 mental health beds there See story below:

<http://www.startribune.com/st-joseph-s-hospital-s-woes-spotlight-strained-mental-health-care-capacity-raise-broader-questions-about-nonprofits-obligations/568092172/>

Migration

Principle: Welcoming the stranger through humane and just immigration policies

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/?vsrc=%2fBills>

Status: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=hf1500&b=house&y=2019&ssn=0>

Action: Supporting Immigrant Driver’s License bill **passage of HF 1500**

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

Principle: Preventing unjust lending practices that deepen poverty and family financial crises

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: **HF 1501 awaits a third reading for passage by the full House**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=hf1501&b=house&y=2019&ssn=0>

Action: **Support HF 1501/SF 1648** establishing a 36% interest rate cap on payday loans

Prescription Drugs

Principle: Support access to high quality health care for people

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: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF3805&ssn=0&y=2020>

Actions: HF 3805 requires prescription drug manufacturers to report and maintain drug prices

Preventing Gun Violence

Principle: Protecting people from gun violence

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/?vvsrce=%2fBills>

Status: **HF 9 passed in the House, SF 436 still awaits an initial hearing in Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Senate Committee**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=hf9&b=house&y=2019&ssn=0>

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)

Support HF 9/ SF 436