

Social Justice Legislative Tracker

Building and Sustaining Affordable and Emergency Housing

Principle: We seek to protect vulnerable populations and secure safe housing for all people.

Social Justice Rationale: *"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

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/domestic-justice-and-human-development/housing-homelessness>

2021 Action: Pending

2020 Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention funding provided

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/news/10248/30380>

Final Status Homes4All bill 2019-2020 Biennium

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF3326&ssn=0&y=2020>

Care for Creation

Principle: We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God's creation.

Social Justice Rationale:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation.cfm>

2021 Action: Pending

Health Care

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

2021 Action: Pending

Human Trafficking

Principle: Anti-Trafficking laws and programs should be strengthened to discourage criminal activity and support recovery networks for child labor and sex-trafficking victims.

Social Justice Rationale: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/the-catholic-church-and-human-trafficking-policy.cfm>

Action: Pending

Final Status of supported bill for 2019-2020 Biennium

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF3070&b=house&y=2020&ssn=0>

Life and Bio-Ethics

Principle: Support 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

Action: Pending

Mental Health Services

Principle: 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.

Social Justice Rationale: “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>

Action: Pending (see “status” link below for a summary of the 2021 mental health policy landscape)

Status: <https://2a392k31wksy2wkejf1y03dp-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/188/2020/12/NAMI-Minnesotas-2021-Legislative-Goals.pdf>

Migration

SJ Committee Actively Advocating for a Bill

Principle: Providing a just and well-regulated immigration system that prioritizes families and relief from suffering.

Social Justice Rationale: “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

Action: Supporting HF169

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF169&version=0&session=ls92&session_year=2021&session_number=0

Final status of supported bill for 2019-2020 Biennium:

<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

Principle: To ensure payday loans do not lead people into a destructive cycle of debt.

Social Justice Rationale: *Usury is a serious sin: it kills life, tramples on the dignity of people, is a vehicle for corruption and hampers the common good. It also weakens the social and economic foundations of a country.*”

-Pope Francis, Address to Members of the National Council of Anti-Usury Foundation, February 3, 2018

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/poverty/domestic/upload/usccb-payday-cordray-cfpb.pdf>

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/background-predatory-banking-payday-lending>

Action: Supporting a 36% APR interest and fees cap for payday loans.

Status: Supporting HF 102 for 2021-2022 Biennium listen to the first hearing for the bill on Wednesday 1/27 at 3PM <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/live/3>

Final status of supported bill for 2019-2020 Biennium:

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

Prescription Drugs

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

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

Action: Pending

Preventing Gun Violence

Principle: “Our Conference (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) will continue to support measures that control the sale and use of firearms, that make guns safer, that provide for sensible regulations of handguns, and that limit assault weapons.”

Social Justice Rationale: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/responses-plague-gun-violence>

Action: Pending

Final status of supported bill for 2019-2020 Biennium: The Minnesota Catholic Conference supported “Red Flag” legislation. This legislation would have allowed family members or law enforcement personnel to petition the court to prohibit firearm possession for people who are a danger to self or others. (did not become law)