

Social Justice Legislative Tracker

[REGISTER FOR CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL \(Minnesota Catholic Conference\)](#)

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 [Quote Citation](#)

2021 Action: Support HF 42/SF 468: This bill secures homeless persons essential services and emergency shelter in safe, sanitary, and decent facilities. [Bill Status](#)

[Faith-Based Housing Activism with MICAH](#)

[Advocate with the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition](#)

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: [USCCB Care for Creation Statement](#)

2021 Action: Support HF 616/ SF 1077: This bill provides for grants to increase lead testing and make residential rental units lead safe. [Bill Status](#)

Health Care

Principle: Healthcare should be available and accessible to everyone, especially to the poor and vulnerable.

Social Justice Rationale: [USCCB Healthcare Framework](#)

2021 Action: Supporting HF 7/SF 29 Establishes Earned safe and sick time requirements for specific categories of employees [Bill Status](#)

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: [USCCB Human Trafficking Policy](#)

Action: Supporting HF 229/SF 1220 Strengthening penalties for producing and/or disseminating child pornography and the exploitation of children. [Bill Status](#)

[Final Status of Bill for 2020 Legislative Session](#)

Life and Bio-Ethics

Principle: Support legislation that protects human life.

Social Justice Rationale: Human life is sacred from the beginning, it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the creator. [Catechism on human life](#)

Action: See the following link to track various bills that impact the dignity and protection of human life under the “Life and Bio-Ethics” advocacy area: [Minnesota Catholic Conference Bill Tracker](#)

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 [Quote Citation](#)

We encourage continued legislative prioritization of mental health care that embraces every human person as valued and filled with inherent dignity. [USCCB statement on Mental Health Issues](#)

Action: Supporting SF 933 to expand the availability of First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs, while ensuring more young people have access and awareness of such programs throughout Minnesota. Quality early intervention programs are critical to minimize damage and increase positive outcomes for young people experiencing a FEP. [Bill Status](#)

Status: [2021 Mental Health Policy Overview at the Minnesota Legislature](#)

[Advocate for better Mental Healthcare in Minnesota](#)

Migration

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 [Minnesota Catholic Conference Legislative Principles](#)

Action: Supporting HF 1163 (Providing process for undocumented persons to acquire State ID cards) [Bill Status](#)

Supporting HF169/SF 812 (Replacing “Alien” term in law) [Current Bill Status](#)

[Final status of supported bill for 2020 Legislative Session](#)

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 [Quote Citation](#)

[USCCB Statement on predatory financial products](#)

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

Status: Supporting HF 102 [Bill Status](#)

[Moorhead initiative to reform Payday Loan terms](#)

[Final status of bill for 2020 Legislative Session](#)

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. [Catholic Healthcare policy framework](#)

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.” Excerpt from letter cited under Social Justice Rationale

Social Justice Rationale: [USCCB Letter on "Responses to the Plague of Gun Violence"](#)

Action: Supporting HF 694/ SF 894 Requires private transfers of pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons be preceded by a firearms eligibility background check of the person receiving the firearm. Grants “chief law enforcement officer” the authority to deny a transfer if transferee is danger to self or others. [Bill Status](#)

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)