



Testimony Opposing the Inclusion of Funding  
For Abortion Services in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget

Presented by

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On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, the New Jersey Catholic Conference supports budget decisions that are guided by moral criteria that safeguard human life and dignity, give central importance to those living in poverty, and promote the well-being of individuals and families who struggle to live in dignity.

We are encouraged that the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget prioritizes funding for children's health insurance, increases prenatal and postpartum care for expectant mothers, substance abuse and recovery services, and programs that provide access to basic needs for the most vulnerable and marginalized residents of our State.

However, we are greatly disheartened to learn the proposal to provide prenatal care for expectant mothers includes funding that could be utilized for abortion services, an act that is a direct attack on the fundamental right to life. True healthcare promotes the dignity of life - - it does not end it.

The fundamental right to life implores us to protect the vulnerable and marginalized of society, regardless of their stage in life, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born.

We strongly encourage the Legislature to prohibit taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. Rather, we ask that you allocate these funds to programs that promote the life and dignity of all mothers and their unborn children.

Thank you.