

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY
2017 Utah Legislative Session
Legislative Priorities

Bill No.		Title and Summary	Diocesan Analysis/Catholic Social Doctrine implicated	Bill Status
HOUSE	HOUSE	HOUSE	HOUSE	HOUSE
HB 36 sub 1	Edwards	Affordable Housing Amendments: creates the Economic Revitalization and Investment Fund; establishes requirements for the distribution of money from the fund; modifies state low-income housing tax credit provisions.	Support as option for the poor. Low income housing is in short supply and roughly 44,000 units are required to address current housing needs. Awaiting funding decisions.	S
HB 76	Chavez-Houck	End of Life Options Act: Legalizes assisted suicide.	OPPOSE. Dignity and sanctity of life. For more complete analysis and talking points, visit http://www.dioslc.org/ministries/governmentliaison	FHC
HB 83 sub 2	Cutler	Rental Application Disclosure Amendments: requires an owner to make certain disclosures to an applicant for a rental unit before the owner accepts a rental application from the applicant; and prohibits an owner from charging an application fee or accepting a rental deposit from an applicant before the owner makes the required disclosures	Support as option for the poor. People in poverty or with criminal records often find themselves paying rental application fees only to learn that the landlord has strict policies regarding financial asset requirements or against renting to people with criminal histories. The bill would require that landlords reveal those policies BEFORE the person pays the fee.	S
HB 112	Perry	Firearms Amendments: provides that a business owner who allows a person with a concealed carry permit to carry a firearm onto the owner's property is not civilly or criminally liable under certain circumstances; and provides an exemption for a person, 21 years of age or older who may lawfully possess a firearm, from certain criminal provisions related to the carrying of a concealed firearm.	Oppose as fostering a culture of death.	HRC
HB 122	Redd	Medicaid Waiver for Postpartum Mental Health Benefits: requires the Department of Health to ask for a federal waiver that will allow the state's Medicaid program to provide mental health benefits and services to certain postpartum women.	Support as protecting the dignity and sanctity of life and providing option for the poor.	HC
HB 141 Sub 2	Stratton	Unborn Child Protection Amendments: requires specified medical personnel to inform a woman seeking an abortion of the possibility that a medication-induced abortion may be able to be reversed; and requires the Department of	Support the substitute bill as protecting the sanctity of life. Provides additional information to women seeking a medication-induced abortion.	S

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		Health to include in its published, printed materials an explanation that medication-induced abortions may be able to be reversed.		
HB 147	Hemingway	Living Wage Amendments: modifies the minimum wage for a private or public employee within the state; modifies the cash wage obligation for a tipped employee within the state; and provides for future increases of the minimum wage and cash wage obligation.	Support as providing option for the poor and protecting the dignity of life. A large proportion of single mothers and working poor families rely on part-time minimum wage jobs. Even full-time employees cannot afford basic needs on Utah's \$7.35/hour minimum wage.	FHC
HB 156 sub 1	Hollins	State Job Application Process: provides that a public employer may not require an applicant to disclose a past criminal conviction before an initial interview for employment; and provides exemptions for certain public employers.	Support as providing option for the poor and protecting the dignity of life. Formerly incarcerated individuals often end up back in prison due in part to the lack of access to housing and employment. This bill is one step toward alleviating unnecessary barriers to success.	S
HB 176	Ray	Human Trafficking Amendments: provides that a criminal homicide caused by the commission of the offense of human trafficking, human trafficking of a child, or aggravated human trafficking is aggravated murder and may be charged as a capital felony.	Oppose as against the sanctity of life. Expansion of the death penalty will not deter human trafficking but will expand the state's use of execution as a tool for revenge.	SRC
HB 178	King	Good Landlord Amendments: prohibits a municipality from requiring a residential landlord to deny tenancy to an individual based on the individual's criminal history.	Support as providing option for the poor. Recidivism rates in Utah are dramatically impacted by the inability of formerly incarcerated individuals to obtain housing and employment. This bill eliminates one barrier to housing.	PHS
HB 187	Handy	Costs for Aggravated Murder Offenses: directs the Legislative Auditor General to conduct an audit of the comparative costs of the death penalty capital offenses and non-death penalty capital cases.	Support as a step toward protecting the sanctity of life.	PSC

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HB 198	Lisonbee	Concealed Carry Amendments: establishes a provisional permit to carry a concealed firearm; stipulates that individuals must be at least 18 years of age, but no more than 20 years of age, to obtain the permit; stipulates that the holder of a provisional permit issued by the state must meet eligibility requirements, including minimum age requirements, to carry a concealed firearm in another state; and prohibits a provisional permit holder from carrying a concealed firearm on or about an elementary or secondary school premises.	Oppose as an attempt to further a culture of death. This bill essentially lowers the concealed carry permit age from 21 to 18.	PSC
HB 206 Sub 1	King	Domestic Violence – Weapons Restrictions: expands the scope of a Category II restricted person to include: A person who is subject to a protective order or child protective order, and a person who has been convicted of assault or aggravated assault against a cohabitant.	Support as protecting the dignity and sanctity of life. Women are more likely to be killed by firearms in domestic violence circumstances. The bill would prohibit a person with a history of domestic violence from possessing a deadly weapon.	S
HB 237	Perry	Firearms and Domestic Violence Modifications: states that certain concealed carry prohibitions do not apply to an individual 21 years of age or older who may lawfully possess a firearm; requires a court to impose a protective order on a perpetrator of domestic violence as a condition of probation or plea in abeyance that puts the perpetrator on notice that the perpetrator is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state and federal law, among other requirements; requires the Bureau of Criminal Identification to inform local law enforcement when a prohibited person attempts to purchase a weapon from a firearms dealer; enhances the level of offense for domestic violence when the perpetrator is in possession of a dangerous weapon to a class A misdemeanor	Oppose. This bill simply combines the anti-life provisions of HB 112 with the protections of HB 206 in an attempt to pass the more problematic elimination of concealed carry permits.	S
HB 239 2nd sub	Snow	Juvenile Justice Amendments: Enacts substantial restorative justice-based reforms to the juvenile justice system.	Support as recognizing the dignity of life and option for the poor.	S

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HB 259	Maloy	Duty to Retreat: enacts “stand your ground” in Utah.	Oppose as against the sanctity of life. Stand your ground laws have been linked to increases in homicides, especially homicides by firearm.	SRC
HB 283	Spendlove	Child Homelessness Prevention: provides that an additional purpose of the cash assistance available under the Family Employment Program is to prevent families with children from becoming homeless.	Support as protecting the dignity of life and providing option for the poor.	SC
HB 294	Westwood	Utah Intergenerational Poverty Work and Self-Sufficiency Tax Credit: enacts a state earned income tax credit.	Support as providing option for the poor.	S
HB 346	Eliason	Suicide Prevention Programs: establishes reporting requirements; creates a position in the Department of Health; and provides for grant awards for suicide prevention programs	Support as protecting the dignity and sanctity of life.	S
HB 424 sub 1	Coleman	Community Reinvestment Agency Amendments: removes the housing allocation requirement for community reinvestment project areas	Oppose as against the dignity of life. Utah currently lacks 44,000 low income housing units. This bill would exacerbate the problem.	H
HB 433 sub 1	Ray	Penalty for Targeting a Law Enforcement Officer: adds facilitating terrorism to the aggravating factors for aggravated murder; and specifically designates targeting a law enforcement officer as terrorism	Oppose as against the sanctity of life. The bill expands the use of the death penalty.	H
HB 438	Romero	Family Leave Amendments: requires an executive agency to provide an eligible employee paid parental leave upon the birth or adoption of the employee's child	Support as protecting the dignity of life and providing option for the poor.	HC
HB 441	Gibson	Housing and Homeless Reform Initiative Amendments: modifies the ordinances and other regulations that a municipality may enforce for a homeless shelter; modifies the requirements for the Homeless Coordinating Committee and the Housing and Community Development Division to award grants or contracts related to a facility that will provide shelter or other services to the homeless	Support as providing option for the poor. The bill provides vital funding for new homeless resource centers and services.	PHC
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SB 46	Davis	Medicaid Expansion Amendments: requires the Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan to expand Medicaid eligibility to the optional populations under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; repeals a provision requiring the governor to comply with certain requirements before expanding Medicaid; and provides that Medicaid expansion is repealed if federal funding decreases from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act funding rates	Support as protecting the dignity and sanctity of life and preferential option for the poor. We recognize this bill will not pass but it provides Medicaid coverage for the full population currently in the coverage gap. Health care is recognized as a right in Catholic doctrine. This bill would provide insurance to thousands of Utahns who are unable to afford private insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid at present.	S
SB 72	Thatcher	Victim Selection Penalty Amendments: provides that the penalty for a criminal offense is subject to enhancement by one degree if the offender acted against an individual because of the offender's perception of the individual's ancestry, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation; provides the same enhancement provisions if the criminal offense damages property and the offender acted against the property because of the offender's perception of the individual's ancestry, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation; states that the provisions do not affect an individual's constitutional right of free speech or any other constitutional rights; and amends the Bureau of Criminal Identification's duties regarding recording crimes that exhibit evidence of prejudice based on specified categories	Support as protecting the dignity of life. When a person's prejudices are so severe, the person is motivated to commit a crime, the criminal justice system should take steps to ensure those prejudices are recognized and addressed through the corrections process.	SRC
SB 88	Iwamoto	Medicaid Housing Coordinator: creates the position of Medicaid long-term support services housing coordinator within the Medicaid program; and specifies the duties of the coordinator.	Support as promoting the dignity of life but ensuring Medicaid recipients are able to receive care at home – a solution studies show improves quality of life and longevity for patients.	SRC
SB 210	Anderegg	Equal Pay Amendments: requires certain employers in the state to adopt and disclose to each employee uniform	Support as recognizing the dignity of work.	SC

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		criteria that the employer uses to determine whether to change an employee's compensation or benefits based on the employee's performance; instructs the Department of Workforce Services to conduct a study on whether there is a difference in pay between men and women in the state; provides that the Department of Workforce Services shall create and maintain a pay index for certain occupations that states the average pay range in the state for each occupation based on years of experience in the occupation.		
SJR 4	Thatcher	Joint Resolution Amending Rules of Evidence – Victim Selection: provides that a criminal defendant's expressions or associations are not admissible as evidence of the defendant's selection of the victim when addressing a victim selection penalty enhancement, except when the evidence: specifically relates to the crime charged; or is introduced for impeachment.	Support as a necessary component of SB 72.	S

Key: C-Committee E-Enrolled H-House S-Senate F-Failed P-passed V-Vetoed by Governor GO-sent to Governor's Office for Action