

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

Testimony in Support of HB 78, HB 63, and HB 79

February 23, 2011

Thank you, Chairman Wachtmann, Ranking Minority Member, Fende. My name is Jim Tobin. I am an Associate Director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. My testimony is brief, and, if I may, it is the same message supportive of HB 63 (pregnant minor consent revisions), HB 78 (post-viability protections) and HB 79 (prohibiting health care coverage for abortions). The Catholic Conference of Ohio supports legislation that provides greater protection for unborn children and pregnant women. Reducing abortions is a laudatory goal. Protecting the life of unborn children is a fundamental human rights issue.

Catholic teaching affirms the sacredness and dignity of every human life from conception to natural death, as well as the need for legislative and legal recognition and protection of all persons, especially unborn children. The Catholic Church promotes a culture of life by supporting laws and programs that encourage childbirth and adoption over abortion and by addressing poverty, providing health care, and offering other assistance to pregnant women, children, and families. In addition, the Catholic Church provides many social services to families and persons in need. We educate the young, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, help women who face difficult pregnancies, feed the hungry, welcome immigrants and refugees, reach out in global solidarity, and pursue peace.

Thank you for this opportunity.