



PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF THE POOR & VULNERABLE

Catholic Conference of Ohio's Budget Recommendations Sub HB 1, as passed by the House

"Our faith has an integral unity that calls Catholics to defend human life and human dignity whenever they are threatened. A priority for the poor, the protection of family life, the pursuit of justice and the promotion of peace are fundamental priorities of the Catholic moral tradition, which cannot be ignored or neglected. We encourage and will continue to work with those in both parties who seek to act on these essential principles in defense of the poor and vulnerable."

Responsibilities of Catholics in Public Life USCCB, 3/10/2006

1. SUPPORT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR HUNGER PROGRAMS

The House funded foodbanks with 12 M per year for the purchase and distribution of shelf-stable food and surplus agricultural commodities throughout Ohio foodbank networks. **An additional \$5 M is needed.**

ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR FAMILY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

The House funded county jobs and family services with \$50 M each year in TANF funds that are to be converted to Title XX Funds to provide support for child-protective services, adoption, kinship care programs, and help for the working poor. **An additional 12 M is needed.**

2. SUPPORT FAIR, AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

FAIR & FLEXIBLE FUNDING PROVISIONS FOR HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES

The House revamped the hospital assessment fee and restored around \$ 284 M. **An additional \$127 M is needed to ensure that hospitals get back %100 of their fee assessment.**

We support the House passed amendment that eliminated the proposed mandate that every Medicaid hospital provide services to

every managed care enrollee, regardless of whether the hospital has a contract with his or her plan.

We support the House passed provisions that address the shortfall in Medicaid payments to charitable nursing homes. Under the Governor's proposal, charitable nursing homes would receive approximately \$14 less per patient, per day.

We support the House passed provision that requests a federal waiver exempting charitable nursing homes, not receiving Medicaid, from increases in the bed tax. Catholic facilities, such as the House of Loreto in Canton, will experience severe financial hardship if this provision is eliminated. **We do not support expanding this provision to for-profit nursing homes.**

SIMPLIFY & EXPAND HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

We support increasing Parental Coverage for working parents to 100% of the Poverty level. This was not included in the House passed budget.

We support the House passed provision that simplifies the Medicaid enrollment process to coincide with food stamps with an annual renewal.

3. SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE CHARTERED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

FAIR & ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING CHARTERED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We support the House passed provisions that allow full access to funds in the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program (education line item 532). The current "cap" was amended so that schools can be reimbursed for state mandated expenditures up to the amount of the appropriation.

The House increased funding for the Auxiliary Services Program (education line item 511) by 1 M each year. **An additional \$2.9 M each year is needed to restore 2008 budget cuts. This would amount to approximately \$15 more per student.**

The House did not increase the Administrative Cost Reimbursement (education line item 532). **An additional \$1.8 M each year is needed to restore the 2008 budget cuts. This would amount to approximately \$9 more per student.**

We support maintaining and expanding the EdChoice, Cleveland, and Autism Scholarship programs. These programs aid students and parents opting out of low performing schools, and/or students in need of special services. **We support appropriate accountability for the academic performance of students participating in these programs.**

We support adding to Sub HB 1 provisions that will include chartered nonpublic students in distance learning programs and that ensure support for beginning teachers who work in chartered nonpublic schools.

4. SUPPORT ELDER CARE

FAIR & ADEQUATE UNIFIED PLAN FOR ELDER CARE SERVICES

The House passed several provisions that will help eliminate waiting lists, and expand PASSPORT and Assisted Living Programs for Senior Citizens. **We support additional funding for home and community based elder care programs.**

The House did not restore reduced funding for the National Senior Services Corps program. Many of our Catholic Social Services agencies provide senior companion, senior volunteer and foster grandparent services through this funding. **An additional \$67,000 per year is needed.**

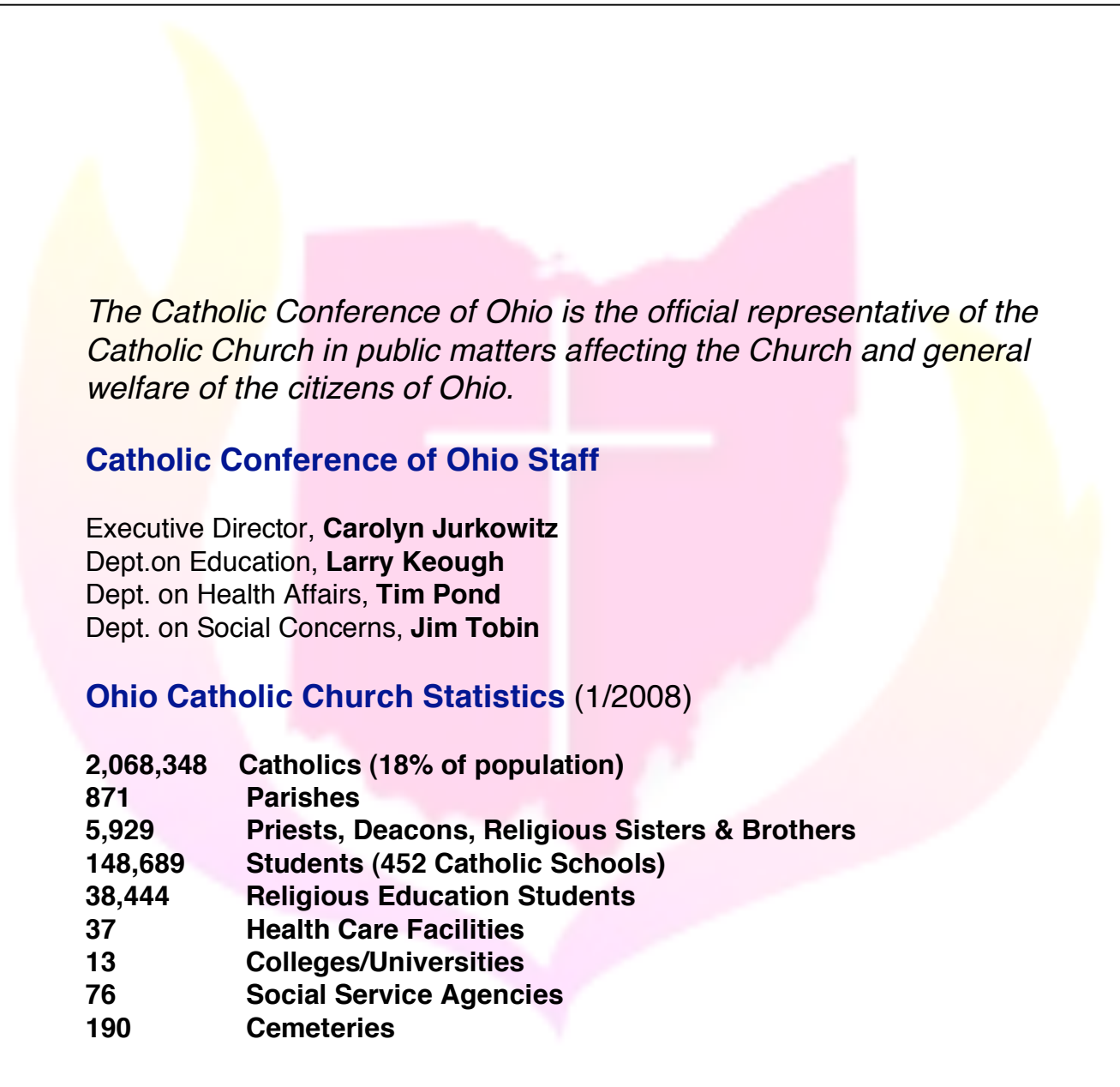
5. SUPPORT LIFE, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION & CORD BLOOD RESEARCH

PRIORITIZE PROGRAMS PROMOTING A STATE PREFERENCE FOR BIRTH

We oppose using state funds for any abortion related services.

We support adding a provision that directs the Ohio Department of Health to reapply to the federal government for \$500,000 in funding for Abstinence-Only Programs under Title V of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

We support the House passed provision providing \$100,000 per year for the Katz Cord Blood Foundation. We support additional funding in the Ohio Biomedical Job Stimulus Program for adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood donation networks and research programs. We oppose the cloning and destruction of human embryos for stem cell research.



The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.

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Ohio Catholic Church Statistics (1/2008)

2,068,348	Catholics (18% of population)
871	Parishes
5,929	Priests, Deacons, Religious Sisters & Brothers
148,689	Students (452 Catholic Schools)
38,444	Religious Education Students
37	Health Care Facilities
13	Colleges/Universities
76	Social Service Agencies
190	Cemeteries