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January 19, 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we proceed with the New Year in the life of the Church allow me this opportunity to bring to your attention two very serious and deeply troubling legislative bills being considered by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the Massachusetts State House.

If enacted into law these proposals would significantly expand abortion access in Massachusetts beyond what is currently permitted. The proposed legislation goes far beyond the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court. I urge you to learn about the specific details of the proposals by way of information provided in this week's bulletin insert.

With your help and the help of your family, friends and neighbors, we must make every effort to ensure that these bills do not become law in Massachusetts. Your voice and the voices of all opposed to unprecedented expansion of abortion will make a difference. It is of critical importance that the women and men who represent us in the Legislature know where we stand on the protection of life.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and all your loved ones, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Sean, O'Connell

Archbishop of Boston



Let Your Voice Be Heard -- Again!

Say NO to Expanded Abortion Access

Thank you to everyone who has already contacted State Senators and Representatives expressing opposition to the proposed laws that would dramatically expand abortion rights in Massachusetts. Now, as the state legislature enters its final six months of the session, it is time to speak out again.

The Facts

The two bills are under consideration (H. 3320 and S. 1209) would:

- 1) Expand abortion access, including late-term abortions, during the nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason.
- 2) Eliminate requirements that late-term abortions be performed in a hospital.
- 3) Eliminate the requirement that provides medical care to a child who survives an abortion attempt.
- 4) Eliminate the requirement that a minor under the age of 18 have the consent of a parent, guardian, or the courts.
- 5) Expand state funding for women who cannot afford the procedure.

To be clear – these bills would significantly change Massachusetts law. This is not about Roe v. Wade.

How can you help?

Contact your legislators, let them know you are a Massachusetts voter, and say NO on Abortion Expansion! Log on to www.macatholic.org and follow the links to find contact information for:

- Your individual State Senator and Representative via address and zip code link.
- Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary who control the fate of H. 3320 and S. 1209.

For individuals without internet access, please call the Massachusetts Catholic Conference at 617-746-5630 for legislative contact information.

"We, the Roman Catholic Bishops of the four Dioceses of Massachusetts, call on our elected officials to carefully consider the consequences that these bills would bring to the lives of infants, parents, families and the citizens of the Commonwealth. We urge all people of good will, regardless of what faith they practice, to vigorously oppose these extreme measures."¹



¹ Statement of His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap., Archbishop of Boston; Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester; Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield; Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV, Bishop of Fall River
April 11, 2019