



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Candidate Questionnaire Project

2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE
Florida House of Representatives District 69

Jennifer Webb (DEM)

Do you support or oppose...

ABORTION REGULATION: Requiring parental consent before a minor child's abortion, notwithstanding previous judicial concerns?

NO RESPONSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *Our family court system and Department of Children and Families needs a great deal of work to protect our most vulnerable. As such, I would not favor limiting this to only those older teens within families judged abusive or neglectful.*

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: Increasing access to care for uninsured Floridians, especially the working poor?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *By expanding access to affordable health care, this not only would limit the number of deaths associated with a lack of access to psysical healthcare, of which Floida ranked highest just 10 years ago, but also it would decrease the number of deaths due to lack of access to mental health and substance use treatment (according to an annual national study of health). Currently, Florida is ranked last in state spending and ~47th in access to those with insurance because so many of our families are un- or underinsured.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Using all state housing trust funds as intended to address affordable housing needs in Florida?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *I will do everything within my power to keep the fund that supports affordable housing from being swept. Stable housing creates healthier communities and more stable families. In Tampa Bay, the rising number of homeless and housing insecure children is associated with the ever-rising cost of rent and homes and the lack of attainable/affordable housing.*

DEATH PENALTY REPEAL: Ending Florida's use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *The first year I was a member of Amnesty International was when I was a high school student at St Joseph's Academy. We would hold prayer vigils outside of the prison any time a life was taken. Sanctity of life is a cornerstone of my faith.*

END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION: Preserving Florida law that bans physician-assisted suicide?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *Sanctity of life is a cornerstone of my faith. And when learning of someone who does choose to end their life, I meet this news with compassion and prayer.*

FREEDOM TO SERVE: Allowing individuals and organizations the freedom to serve the public in accord with reasoned conscientious beliefs related to sexuality and marriage?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *When it comes to the sacraments and the practice of one's faith within the church, I support a religion's right to have their own practices in alignment with their teachings. When it comes to fulfillment of civil or non-religious functions, we can take a lesson from history. Religion was used to justify conscientious refusal to integrate lunch counters, neighborhoods, and schools. The Catholic Church was a leader on integration, so many of my teachers were active in protecting African-Americans and pushing forward integration. I would hope that we would do the same here. Or, at the very least, that we would not take a side in this debate.*

IMMIGRATION: Urging Congress to undertake extensive immigration reform, rather than adopting piecemeal state policies?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *We must make clear pathways to citizenship for immigrants that is not dependent upon wealth or being well-connected.*

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Establishing that children under 14 shall not be transferred to the adult criminal justice system?

SUPPORT

Optional Candidate Comment: *We must work to reform our criminal justice system especially when it comes to sentencing children.*

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT: Creating education savings accounts to use for nonpublic school tuition?

OPPOSE

Optional Candidate Comment: *I was blessed to have been educated in the Catholic school system. My mother made financial sacrifices so that we could attend Catholic schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade. My spouse even attended a Catholic College. I currently raise money to endow a scholarship at my alma mater so that young women who are less fortunate than I was can attend my former high school. This is an important part of keeping my alma mater strong and increasingly inclusive. It is also a personal choice and a choice that my family makes. From my Catholic Education, I learned about contributing to the common good. As a legislator, this means making sure that my policies do the most good for the largest number of families. Most of our families in Florida attend public schools. So it is my job to ensure that our public school system is strong.*

SAFETY OF SCHOOLCHILDREN: Expanding existing legislative initiatives to harden the physical security of nonpublic schools?

OPPOSE