



Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
National Council of Catholic Women
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT
ODCCW BOARD MEETING – January 14, 2017

SAVE THE DATE
Catholic Days at the Capitol
April 4-5, 2017

Make the Trip to Catholic Days at the Capitol and Make a Difference – Registration Deadline 3/17/17

Each year Catholics from around the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. This two-day event provides the opportunity to put into action our faith's call to political responsibility and allows us to strengthen the presence of our Catholic values in the public square. By joining with Floridians who share our faith to advocate for laws that protect and defend human life and dignity, we can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our state and help promote the common good for all of Florida's residents.

Catholic Days activities include:

- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity
- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers
- A luncheon for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops and legislators
- Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop
- Tours of the current and historic capitol buildings
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government

No Florida legislative priorities have been posted on the <http://flaccb.org/> website as of December 30, 2016. The FL House and Senate will convene on March 7, 2017, for the regular session. Senator Joe Negron (S-25) will be President of the FL Senate. The FL House will be led by Speaker Richard Corcoran (H-37). Both chambers are majority Republican.

Regarding the 114th Congress: new members were elected on November 8, 2016. The 114th majority Republican Congress will convene on January 3, 2017. Speaker Paul Ryan leads the House; Senator Mitch McConnell is the Senate Majority Leader. <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns> - There are 3 active legislative campaigns identified by the USCCB:

Urge Congress to Support the Russell Amendment

Contact your Senators and Representatives and urge them to protect religious institutions from discrimination by supporting the Russell amendment! An amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by Congressman Steve Russell (R-OK) would...

Urge Congress to Pass the Conscience Protection Act NOW!

Urge Congress to Move the Conscience Protection Act Forward! Last Updated Date: 07/27/2016 The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commended the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (S. 304) on July 13...

Urge Congress to press Israel to stop confiscation of Christian lands in Cremisan Valley

The Holy Land is a place of great spiritual importance for Jews, Christians and Muslims. In recent decades it has also been the site of great conflict that takes a devastating toll on all who live there and contributes to instability in the region. Recognizing the...