

WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

URGE KENTUCKY LAWMAKERS TO PASS IN-PERSON INFORMED CONSENT LEGISLATION



Sacred Scripture teaches us the sanctity of human life: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.” (Jeremiah 1:5) Reflecting on the the sanctity of human life and dignity, Pope Benedict XVI, in an address to the Pontifical Academy for Life, taught: “Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others....” (February 24, 2007)

Because of the sanctity of human life, the Catholic Conference of Kentucky has worked for years with pro-life legislators to pass a law that would require abortion providers to meet “face-to-face” with patients seeking an abortion.

Current Kentucky law does not require an in-person, face-to-face meeting before an abortion. Before making a medical decision affecting a human life, a woman has the right to know the risks and options available.

A woman's access to detailed health related information and life-affirming options to abortion is best provided in-person, where she can ask questions, where the specific situation of the woman can be considered by a physician or other medical professional with whom the physician works.

Requiring that all the information needed to make an informed decision is provided in-person, and not simply through some impersonal recording, protects the rights of women considering a decision that is not reversible. It may also reduce the number of babies aborted and avoid the post-abortion trauma that is sadly real for some women.

This legislative proposal advocates for good medical practice as promoted by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure. This state agency is responsible for protecting the public by ensuring that only qualified medical and osteopathic physicians are licensed. On its website it states that it uses its newsletter to “provide important information to physicians practicing in the state.” In its Fall 2004 newsletter the Board expressed how important it is for patients to have a face-to-face evaluation with health care professionals:

Consumers obtaining prescriptions, medications, and/or medical treatment from Internet web sites without an adequate evaluation by a physician pose an immediate threat to the public health and safety....The Board feels a valid physician/patient relationship cannot be established without an initial face-to-face evaluation by a health care professional.

Now is the time to begin urging your legislators in the House and Senate to support an in-person, face-to-face informed consent proposal. The Catholic Conference of Kentucky hopes you will use the contact information in the box on the right to call now and ask them to support this bill.

We invite you to help make Kentucky a place to live that reflects the values found in Sacred Scripture, a state where the common good is sought and the needs of poor persons come first, a state where laws reflect the truth taught by Pope Benedict XVI that “Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others....”

Visit the Catholic Conference website, www.ccky.org, for up-to-date information on important legislation. And, even better, become a Faithful Citizen Advocate by signing up to receive legislative alerts and related information. It is so easy to do. Visit <http://capwiz.com/ccky/mlm/signup/> and fill in the blanks. And invite a Catholic friend to do the same.

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

Call: 1-800-372-7181 toll free and the person who answers will take down your message and deliver it to your State Senator and/or State Representative. If you do not know who that is, that is o.k. The person will help identify him or her for you.

Spanish language speakers: 1-877-739-5556.

The TTY Message Line is 1-800-896-0305

You can fax a message to 1-502-564-6543.

The General Assembly website has an abundance of important information that can help you learn about bills that interest you: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm>