

Stand Up for Human Dignity: Be a Voice for Life Right Now!

Contact your State Senator to express your opposition to the “Reproductive Health Act”

This is the abortion expansion bill that we have been opposing for many years. Sadly it stands a good chance of passing the New York State legislature very soon, so let’s speak up loudly! E-mail your NYS State Senator **this week** to ask for a NO vote on this bill in any form it might take. Use this link: www.nyscatholic.org

This bill wouldn’t just “codify” the *Roe v. Wade* decision. It would allow for expansion of abortion in ways that thousands of New Yorkers oppose, even those who don’t consider themselves pro-life. It would:

- Allow **non-doctors** to perform abortions.
- Allow abortions for any reason in the **third trimester of pregnancy** right up to a mother’s due date.
- Remove all criminal penalties for abortion, even if it was **contrary to the mother’s choice**, such as the intentional targeting of an unborn child in an act of violence.
- Remove our state’s protections for **infants accidentally born alive** in the course of an abortion.

Stop Abortion Expansion!

Tell your elected officials to reject the Reproductive Health Act

Go the Extra Mile:

After e-mailing, call your State Senator’s office to express your opinion over the phone, too.

Encourage friends from other parts of NYS to speak out on this issue.



Coming in February: Public Policy Weekend Justice for Farmworkers

Here in our Diocese, our parishes participate in the annual Public Policy Weekend every February, when petition signatures are gathered in support of that year’s public policy focus. Across our 12 counties, parishioners speak out with one voice on an issue related to Catholic Social Teaching. Bravo for us! Thank you for being part of this in your parish.

For the 2019 legislative session, that issue is the **Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act**, which would grant equal labor rights to the workers who milk cows, tend animals, and plant, prune, harvest and pack fruits and vegetables around our state. See next page and your parish bulletin for more information. Then please plan to sign the petition!

Stand Up for Human Dignity: Be a Voice for Justice!

DID YOU KNOW? Under New York State Labor Law farmworkers do **NOT** have the right to:

- ◇ Overtime pay
- ◇ A day of rest per week if the worker chooses to take it
- ◇ Employer-provided workers compensation and disability insurance
- ◇ Public health protections including sanitation and housing standards
- ◇ Protections when bargaining collectively

These are basic rights granted to virtually all other workers in our state. The people who are the backbone of our multi-billion dollar agricultural industry are excluded from these protections.

This inequality dates back to the New Deal. Southern legislators would only agree to President Franklin Roosevelt's proposed labor reforms if two groups of workers were excluded: farm labor and domestic help, jobs held primarily by African-Americans in the South of the 1930s. The segregationists couldn't stomach the idea of granting equal labor rights to them.

Decades later, New York State law, copied from federal law, continues to reflect this Jim Crow-era prejudice. From the beginning these exclusions did not have an economic basis. **They came into being because of the sin of racism in our country.**



Farmworkers in Cayuga County

Why does the Catholic Church care about this group of workers?

We care because the Gospel demands that we stand on the side of the poor and marginalized, because that's what Jesus did. Farmworkers are among the most vulnerable workers in New York.

We care because of the imperative of our faith that Pope Francis has reminded us of throughout his papacy, the imperative to protect and welcome immigrants. In our part of New York State, many of those who've come to this country seeking a better life are farmworkers.

We care because we believe in the fundamental dignity of human work and the rights of workers to decent wages, safe working conditions and protection when collectively redressing grievances. Protecting workplace dignity is fundamental to protecting human dignity.

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