



LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES 2010

The following legislative objectives are a continuation of the Minnesota Catholic Conference's (MCC) legislative objectives from the first year of the biennium.

Abortion and Life

- Build a culture of life by cultivating support for pro-life positions on abortion, artificial reproduction, cloning, the death penalty, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research.
- Support efforts to reverse the Minnesota Supreme Court decision, *Doe v. Gomez*, that requires public funding of abortion for low-income women and establishes an absolute "right" to abortion in Minnesota.
- Increase access to, and funding for, programs that provide needed support services to pregnant women and their families.

Childhood Education

- Protect the rights of private school students, parents and educators to access special education services and benefits.
- Provide state funding for children to participate in early childhood learning and school preparedness programs in private schools.

Criminal Justice

- Limit the impact of a parent's incarceration on children and families.
- Improve access to credit, education and training, employment and housing for individuals who have completed their sentence.

Economic Justice

- Improve options for low-income workers by expanding training and employment opportunities, while addressing child care and transportation needs.
- Increase employment and training opportunities for unemployed Minnesota workers.

Ending Poverty

- Ensure that Minnesotans have access to public supports that help individuals maintain employment and meet their families' basic needs.
- Implement the recommendations of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020.

Energy and the Environment

- Pursue alternative sources of energy: wind, solar, electric and bio-fuels from non-food sources.
- Encourage responsible stewardship of our natural resources by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

Food and Agriculture

- Secure a healthful food supply for all Minnesotans.
- Support family farms while preserving Minnesota's soil, water and wildlife.

Health Care

- Ensure health care access for all Minnesotans.

Housing

- Create affordable housing options for all Minnesotans.
- Equip the homes of low-income individuals and families with renewable and sustainable energy sources, thereby reducing utility costs.

Immigration

- Provide newcomers access to education and essential public supports.

Marriage

- Strengthen and stabilize families by ensuring that health insurance covers marriage and family counseling.
- Oppose efforts to grant same-sex unions the legal equivalent of marriage.

Parental Choice in Education

- Preserve and expand parental choice in education to include education tax credits for contributions to education foundations.
- Sustain full state funding of existing parental choice benefits for students attending private schools, such as student transportation, textbook allocations, health services and guidance and counseling.
- Support abstinence education and oppose family life and sexuality education programs that promote practices contrary to Church teachings.