



January 31, 2019

Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops in Indiana regarding state and national matters.

SB 352, Consent to pregnancy services, failed 24 – 25 on third reading in the Senate. The concern for many was that the bill undermined parental responsibility and authority. The bill did not exclude parents but did authorize a minor (age 16 – 18) to consent to prenatal and care during delivery and postpartum without parental involvement. **ICC raised this same concern.** Since there were not at least 26 votes (majority) against it, **the bill could be recalled for a vote next week, until Tuesday.** A similar bill has been introduced in the House. It is **uncertain if the bill will get a hearing**, particularly given the outcome in the Senate.

Senate Health Committee heard SB 201, Health provider ethical exemption, authored by Senator Liz Brown (R – Fort Wayne). **The bill would extend conscience protection for nurses, pharmacists, and any other health provider licensed in Indiana.** Current law exempts only physicians and hospitals. When Indiana law was established, medical or chemical abortion, RU 486, was not available. It is time to protect others from being forced to violate their conscience. Given the extent of medical therapies and processes, others could also be asked to be associated with the procedures related to an abortion. **The committee did not take a vote** in part due to questions about the extensive list of professionals given protection from having to participate in an abortion. **Contact the Senate and ask them to vote on and pass SB 201.** You can contact your Senator [here](#).

HB 1004, School safety, authored by Representative Wendy McNamara (R – Mount Vernon), **passed the House 96 – 2 and now goes to Senate** for consideration. **HB 1004 expands and adjusts safety funding for schools, including non-public and Catholic schools.** The funding allows for grants and reduces the amount for small schools and makes other requirements regarding safety drills and threat assessment. **The bill was amended to not require schools to conduct a student survey, the Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey. ICC and INPEA (Indiana Non-Public Education Association), among other requested this to be optional. ICC supports the bill.**

House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee unanimously passed HB 1225, Safe schools, authored by Representative Gregory Steuerwald (R – Danville). **The bill was amended to include non-public schools as well as charter and public school corporations.** The bill allows grants from Indiana’s school safety fund to provide an electronic system connecting schools, police and emergency organizations if there is an emergency at school. The system will be coordinated through the Sheriff to allow all emergency personnel to be coordinated in the response. **The bill now goes to floor for consideration.**

House Public Policy Committee heard HB 1643, Firearm matters, authored by Representative Ben Smaltz (R – Auburn). **In addition to dealing with licensing of persons to carry handguns**, HB 1643 **also provides** that a person who has license to carry may do so on church property that also has a school on campus when attending church functions or on other business at the church. **Current law prohibits guns on all school grounds**. Some churches and individuals who carry guns have asked for this exemption in the past. Many have objected. The **bill also recognizes** that the owner of the property (i.e. church) has the authority to control when and if firearms are permitted. **ICC is neutral on the bill** as it does maintain that our church controls policies and procedures for our church or school grounds. **ICC is monitoring the bill** to ensure that churches remain in control of its property. **The bill will be voted on next week.**

HB 1517, Charity gaming, authored by Representative Ben Smaltz, **passed the Public Policy Committee last week; it now is in House Ways and Means Committee for consideration**. The **bill deals with licensing fees** and therefore must pass scrutiny of the Ways and Means Committee before it can go to the House floor for a vote.

In addition to the Update, **more detailed information regarding the bills, as well as detailed information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly can be obtained by clicking [here](#)**. Archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information can be accessed on the ICC website www.indianacc.org