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

Out of love for the poor and the disenfranchised, the ICC continued its support for HB1009 Various Welfare Matters, Rep Goodrich’s bill which would allow a dependent 18-year-old to have a paid internship without negatively impacting the family’s public assistance. This bill went before the House Family, Children and Human Affairs committee where the ICC went on record in support of this measure. The bill passed unanimously.

HB1083 Driving Cards, authored by Rep Cindy Campbell from West Lafayette. This bill would allow identification cards for undocumented persons following the passing of a driver’s test and proof of insurance. This bill was met with support from some members of the community but may not advance at the statehouse. Rep Campbell stressed that this bill would be a benefit to public safety by insuring that drivers on the road are qualified and can show financial responsibility. The Senate has a similar bill in SB419, authored by David Niezgodski from South Bend.

SB111 TANF Eligibility, authored by Sen Jon Ford from Terre Haute, would after 32 years, reset the eligibility requirements for those who receive the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families as well as the amount that is received. The ICC supports this bill just as it supported a similar bill last year. Last year the bill did not survive. It is hoped that S 111 has a better fate this session. To encourage your legislator to support this bill. Click here http://www.indianacc.org/links.html

SB299 Fetal Remains, authored by Sen Liz Brown of Fort Wayne, is in response to the horrifying discovery made on the property of the now deceased physician who performed and kept the remains of more than 2400 aborted fetuses. This bill requires the Indiana Department of Health to set and abide by standards that would ensure that all fetal remains are either cremated or buried. In respect for the unborn and honoring the dignity of the person, the ICC supports this bill which would provide for a proper and appropriate disposition of the remains.

An update on previously mentioned bills concerning the family:

HB1056 Parental Notice of Juvenile arrest at school and
HB1130 Leave for Miscarriages This bill would allow two days of unpaid leave after a miscarriage, have not gone to committee.

Please assist the ICC’s efforts by contacting your legislator. Information on how to contact your legislator can be found on the ICC website www.indianacc.org. Archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information can also be accessed on the ICC website. More detailed information regarding these and other bills, as well as detailed information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly can be found at http://iga.in.gov/