



STATEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NEW JERSEY **ON THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT**

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. For that reason, we, the Bishops of each of the dioceses in New Jersey, join in voicing the strongest possible opposition to the “Reproductive Freedom Act.”

Without minimizing other serious threats to human life and dignity evident in contemporary American society, the Catholic Church consistently maintains that “the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.” (USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, “Introductory Letter,” 2020).

When informed of the text of the USCCB document early in 2020, Pope Francis observed that the right of life of the unborn “is the most fundamental right. This is not first a religious issue; it is a human right issue.” (Pope Francis to American Catholic Bishops, USCCB Region IX, January 16, 2020).”

As the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, we urge all Catholics and people of goodwill to reject this proposed legislative initiative in our state and to contact your State legislators to vigorously express opposition to its passage.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Rev. Kevin J. Sweeney
Bishop, Diocese of Paterson

Most Rev. David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop, Diocese of Trenton

Most Rev. James F. Checchio
Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. Dennis J. Sullivan
Bishop, Diocese of Camden

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette
Bishop, Eparchy of Passaic

Most Rev. Yousif Habash
Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance of Syriac Catholic Diocese

More information from the Diocesan Respect Life Office will be forthcoming regarding contacting our state legislators on this serious matter.