

## **Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Legislative Commission Report**

**January 2020, Patty Johnson, Chair**

**Everyday Catholic Women are given opportunities to speak, to act and to pray for Legislative Concerns. It is our responsibility to recognize these opportunities and to respond.**

**The Tennessee Catholic Public Policy Commission is our Catholic Advocacy Network and has an up to date web site for all to advocate for social reform and to participate in the Tennessee Legislative process. Go to [www.tcppc.org](http://www.tcppc.org) and check out their links. Sign up and receive "Action Alerts"- a call to action on issues that affect our community and state.**

**Currently the TNCPPC is urging that strategies be developed and implemented in Tennessee to end chronic homelessness. The state of Tennessee is one of the few states that lacks a specific plan to put an end to chronic homelessness. The TNCPPC supports structures that allow for funding and support of developing permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless persons. The TNCPPC endorses the creation of appropriate policies that will prevent the discharge of persons from institutional care to emergency shelters or to the streets. The prevention of homelessness is less costly in terms of dollars and human energy than working to meet the needs of those who become homeless.**

**The TNCPPC advocates for services that contribute to housing stability such as housing counseling, rental subsidies, effective distribution of Section 8 vouchers as well as case management and preventative protocols for individuals being discharged from state institutions. Add your voice to the TNCPPC advocacy network.**

**On the National level we are being asked to contact our congressional representatives and senators on an issue advocated for by Catholic Relief Services; "The Global Child Thrive Act" (HR4864/S2715). An estimated 249 million children face developmental delays due to extreme poverty. Scientific findings reveal that children living in poverty who receive cognitive stimulation and nurturing care during their early years grow up healthier and are helped to thrive and grow into their full potential.**

**Thank you to all of you who gave witness to Life in the Womb by praying during the 40 Days for Life. It has been proven that this advocacy does save hundreds of babies from abortion.**

**On the very first day of the 2020 Legislative Session, pro-life allies will introduce legislation to strengthen Tennessee's Parental Consent Law. This bill will eliminate the judicial bypass**

system, require the consent of at least one parent for any minor considering an abortion and save the lives of countless babies.

The Catholic Mobilizing Network reports that a total of 25 states have now distanced themselves from the death penalty in some formal capacity. The United States is pulling back from the practice of capital punishment and we must pray that Tennessee will soon abolish this practice. Every action you take and prayer you pray makes a difference and makes building a Restorative Future possible in our communities.

The "Patient's Rights Council" reports that advocacy for doctor-prescribed suicide is growing and growing and could erupt into a full-scale disaster for our entire medical system. As of now eight states and the District of Columbia have changed their laws and transformed the crime of assisted suicide into a "medical treatment". A real part of the push for assisted suicide is related to the loneliness epidemic that is so very real today. According to the US Government's Health Resources & Services Administration, more than ever before, loneliness and social isolation are growing. And each of us can do something to change this. That doesn't mean we need to join formal groups to reach out. It can be something very simple. We can smile and greet someone we see at a store. We can stop and talk to a neighbor. We can reach out to share a few minutes with the homebound.

Bread for the World has played a leadership role in recruiting more than 175 cosponsors in both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the "Global Nutrition Resolutions". The Global Nutrition Resolutions (H.Res 189 and S.Res. 260) will be coming to the House floor and also has support for passage in the Senate version of the resolution. These bipartisan resolutions make accelerating progress on global nutrition especially for mothers and young children a priority of the U.S. government. Call 800-826-3688 or write to your senators and representatives and urge them to support and pass this resolution. Updated weekly, the Activist Corner at [bread.org/activist](http://bread.org/activist) has the latest information, tools and resources. You will also learn how other Bread for the World members and churches are taking action. Bread for the World will also work in 2020 to support legislation to improve U.S. child nutrition. More than half of all U.S. school children qualify for free or subsidized school meals. Expanding summer feeding programs is critical if our nation's children are to get the nutrition they need to grow and learn.

This report will only be effective if it is acted upon and passed on to CCW's in all of our Parishes. It is important that we focus on the positive things we can do to make a better

**world and respect the human dignity of all people. We must remember that it is our moral obligation to participate in the Political Process and to speak out to make a difference.**

**Let us pray for the courage we need to be Advocates for Justice.**