



CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105 - 3784

CHRISTOPHER C. HEALY
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DEACON DAVID W. REYNOLDS
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FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FOR EDUCATION

LORI A. STEWART
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Testimony in Support of
House Bill No. 6570

*AN ACT CONCERNING
SAFETY AND SECURITY IN PLACES OF WORSHIP & OTHER COMMUNITY VENUES*

Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing
February 14, 2019
Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

As Catholics, we are obliged to defend the right to religious liberty for ourselves and for others.

As declared in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Statement on Religious Liberty*
"if we are not free in our conscience *and our practice of religion*, all other freedoms are
fragile...(emphasis added)

A place of worship by its very definition is generally regarded as a location where one can freely and safely participate in the practice of his or her religion. In recent years, however, places of worship of various faiths and in a myriad of communities have increasingly become targets of violence. These attacks across the country make manifest the need to develop safety and security protocols for places of worship and other venues in the community that are open to the public and could be potential targets for acts of mass violence.

The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, the public policy office of Connecticut's Catholic Bishops, supports House Bill No. 6570.

Thank you.

Lori Stewart
Legislative Liaison