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Testimony on
Proposed Senate Bill 339
“An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage
For Elective Fertility Preservation Treatments”
By
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Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
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The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, the public policy office of Connecticut’s Catholic Bishops, requests that S.B. 339 be drafted to include religious exemption language similar to the exemption language in sections 38a-503e, 38a-530e and 38a-536 of the General Statutes. These statutes currently allow religious employers and individuals the ability to exclude birth control, sterilization procedures and infertility treatment from their insurance policies, if such inclusion is contrary to bona fide religious tenets.

Fertility preservation treatment, just like infertility treatment, violate Catholic moral teaching on the procreation and sanctity of human life. Primarily, fertility preservation procedures may result in the creation of human life through artificial means. Those procedures would primarily be those used in infertility treatments, which already have a religious exemption attached to them under state law.

The Conference is not seeking to prohibit this coverage from being mandated in the state, but is asking that the Insurance and Real Estate Committee respect the religious tenets of others when creating such a mandate. The legislature has a long history of respecting religious freedom and thought in Connecticut and we are hoping this tradition will continue should S.B. 339 become law.