



**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE**

# **ACTION ALERT**

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## **Child Custody Protection Act Support Parental Rights**

The U.S. Senate is poised to take action on the Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA). Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) has introduced this measure with different bill numbers. Two have been referred to Committee (S. 8, S. 396) but the third (S. 403) has been placed directly on the Senate calendar and is ready for floor consideration. S. 403 has 39 cosponsors. For list of cosponsors, see: [thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00403:@@P](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00403:@@P). The CCPA would make it a federal crime to transport a minor girl across state lines to obtain an abortion with the intent of circumventing the parental involvement law of the girl's home state. The prohibition would not apply when the abortion is necessary to save the minor's life. The measure would prevent the abridgement of parental rights secured under state law.

In 1998, 1999, and 2002, this legislation passed the House but was stalled in the Senate. In 2004, hearings were held in both the House and Senate, but no further action was taken.

In 2005, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced an expanded version of the CCPA, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA) (H.R. 748). This measure passed the House, 270-yes, 157-no. H.R. 748 also is pending on the Senate calendar.

It is anticipated that the Senate will take up S. 403. *This action could take place at any time.* Please contact your two U.S. Senators today! *It is especially important that Senators with mixed voting records who are not cosponsors be contacted.*

**ACTION:** All pro-life constituents should contact their two U.S. Senators by FAX letter, e-mail, or phone. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call your Senators' local offices. For access to your Senators' full contact information, see: [www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm).

**MESSAGE:** "Please support the Child Custody Protection Act (S. 403) and please oppose a filibuster. The rights of parents to protect their minor children must be secured in law."

**WHEN:** The Senate could consider S. 403 at any time. Do not delay. Please take action now! Thanks.

Updated 7/14/06

## **HOW TO ORGANIZE OR ADD TO YOUR LEGISLATIVE ALERT NETWORK**

**Choose a contact person.** This is the person to whom we will send any Action Alerts. Their responsibility is to send the Action Alerts to the members of your parish network. Given the fast pace of legislative action, both on the state and federal levels, an immediate response is increasingly required to the Action Alerts. Hence, the need for all **new** networks to be email. (A sample Action Alert is on the back of this page.) We will provide your contact person with the legislators' contact information, which they can then distribute to the members of your parish network.

### **Return the Legislative Alert Network Contact Information Form to the Respect Life Office.**

Any **new** contact person must have an email address to which we can send the Action Alerts. Please update the **email** contact information for your Respect Life Coordinator as well. Please fax this form, as soon as possible, to my secretary, Diane Canizzo, at 973-473-3353, or email the information to her at: [dianec@patersondiocese.org](mailto:dianec@patersondiocese.org). The form must be returned **no later than Monday, October 16.**

### **Decide the best way for your parish to build a network around the contact person.**

This can be done in several different ways:

1. You can ask your contact person to help you recruit 5-10 parishioners (or more) who would be willing to contact their legislators. This recruiting can be done from various groups in the parish, including the Respect Life Committee.
2. Have a Legislative Alert Network Sign-up Sunday. Your current Legislative Alert Network, your Respect Life Committee, or another parish group could assist you in the organization of this effort. With advance advertising in the bulletin, and an announcement from the pulpit, choose a weekend that is convenient for your parish, and have sign-up forms on tables in the back of church, or index cards and pencils in the pews. Simply request a name, phone number, and an email address.
3. Respect Life Sunday, October 1, 2006, is the latest date we would suggest you do this, as the Contact Information Form must be returned **no later than Monday, October 16.**

**Pastors and Networks should know that the only groups from which we are authorized to accept Action Alerts are the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA), which is the legislative arm of USCCB, and the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC).**

**Organize or Add to your Respect Life Committee, using all the above techniques, on the same day, if you so choose!**