



Washington State Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Washington State

WSSCC Newsletter for Catholic Schools

Spring Quarter 2022

As the public policy voice of the five bishops of Washington state, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSSCC) advocates for policies that serve the common good and recognize the dignity of every human person. Our advocacy is guided by Catholic Social Teaching, and supporting Catholic schools and education is a key goal of our mission.

Responding to Gun Violence: Prayer and An Action Alert

We recently witnessed mass shootings at a school in Ulvade, on a Catholic medical campus in Tulsa, in a grocery store in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, and at a church in Laguna Woods. Pope Francis and national and local Catholic leaders call for action and prayer. Send a letter to Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, and your US Congress member using this [Action Alert](#) from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Additionally, click on the following for messages from [Pope Francis](#), [Archbishop Paul Etienne](#), [Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Miller](#) of the Diocese of San Antonio, and the [US Conference of Catholic Bishops](#).



The 2022 State Legislative Session

The 2022 state legislative session concluded in March. Visit our [website](#) to see which bills the WSSCC supported or opposed. Thank you to advocates who virtually signed in for or against bills, responded to WSSCC action alerts, and contacted their legislators. [Subscribe](#) to our Catholic Advocacy Bulletin to receive information about legislative issues of importance to Catholics during the next state legislative session and throughout the year.

Welcome, Bishop Frank Schuster!

The WSCC is pleased to welcome Bishop Frank Schuster to its executive board. Bishop Schuster was ordained in May and is the new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Read more about Bishop Schuster's ordination in this [Northwest Catholic](#) article.

School Choice Advocacy

Advocating for Catholic schools is one of the primary legislative priorities of Washington's bishops. The WSCC is supportive of school choice programs that increase families' opportunities to attend Catholic schools. During the state legislative session, the WSCC monitored three school choice bills introduced by the legislature: [House Bill 1633](#), [House Bill 2042](#), and [Senate Bill 5205](#). While these bills did not advance, the WSCC is working on a bipartisan, multiyear project to advance viable school choice legislation. Stay tuned as coalition plans develop!



Legislative Session Wrap Up

A few legislative highlights from this past session are below. Please see this [section](#) of the WSCC [website](#) for more details on bills the WSCC advocated for or against this year.

- [House Bill 1905](#) looks to reduce youth homelessness by increasing support systems for youth and young adults exiting publicly funded care, including the child welfare system, the behavioral health system, and the juvenile justice system. Young individuals exiting these programs are at a high risk for experiencing homelessness. The WSCC supported SHB 1905, and it was passed into law.
- [Senate Bill 5838](#) (SB 5838) provides subsidies to cover the cost of diapers and other child-related necessities to low-income families who have children under the age of three and are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. The WSCC supported SB 5838, and it was signed into law.
- [House Bill 1141](#) (HB 1141) expands access to assisted suicide and weakens safeguards. The WSCC opposed HB 1141, and the bill was not passed by the legislature.
- [House Bill 1616](#) (HB 1616) increases the number of individuals eligible for charity care at hospitals. The WSCC supported HB 1616, and it was passed into law.

What Public Policy Issues Are Important to Catholics of Washington State?

[Join our network](#) to learn more about which public policy issues are important to the bishops and Catholics of Washington state. You will receive our Catholic Advocacy Bulletin and occasional Action Alerts. The Catholic Advocacy Bulletin is currently emailed monthly, and during the state legislative session it is sent weekly.

WSCC Staff

We invite you to contact us at any time.



Washington State
Catholic Conference

Mario Villanueva, Executive Director
mario.villanueva@wacatholics.org

Adrienne Corpuz Joyce
Director of Policy & Communications
adrienne.joyce@wacatholics.org

Tracey Wilson Yackley
Operations Manager
tracey.yackley@wacatholics.org



**Happy
Summer
Vacation!**

The WSCC wishes our Catholic school teachers, administrators, staff, students, and families a blessed and safe summer vacation.

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