



FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, June 11, 2010**

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**Florida Catholic Conference extremely disappointed with veto of HB 1143**

**Tallahassee, FL** – The Florida Catholic Conference expresses extreme disappointment with the action taken today by Governor Crist to veto HB 1143. This good bill would have had a profoundly positive effect on women and their unborn children, as well as all Floridians.

Ultrasounds are already required for all second and third trimester abortions and are standard medical practice to determine gestational age and location of the fetus. Currently, over 80% of abortion clinics require an ultrasound before first trimester abortions and include it in the price. HB 1143 would have ensured that all women seeking an abortion during their first trimester are afforded the opportunity to become fully informed before choosing to have an abortion.

“This is a sad day for Florida women,” said Sheila Hopkins, Associate Director for Social Concerns/Respect Life. “Many women have lamented their decision and wish they could have viewed an ultrasound before making a choice that they now deeply regret. Without this bill in place women will continue to make a life-altering decision without the benefit of informed consent.”

Additionally, HB 1143 would have ensured that public funds are not used to subsidize elective abortions. As a result of this veto, there is currently no mechanism in place to prevent Floridians’ tax dollars from being used to pay for abortions as federal reform is implemented and state exchanges are established. This bill also contained important government streamlining provisions that would have increased government and private sector efficiency.

We thank the thousands of Catholic faithful and others of good will who reached out to Governor Crist to communicate their support for the provisions of this bill.

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