

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

201 WEST PARK AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301-7715

PHONE (850) 205-6820
FAX (850) 205-6849
www.flaccb.org



May 20, 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

VICE PRESIDENT

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

SECRETARY

Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch
Diocese of St. Petersburg

TREASURER

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino
Archdiocese of Miami

Michael B. Sheedy
Executive Director

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Please Sign HB 633 - Reflection Period Prior to Abortion

Dear Governor Scott:

Under your leadership, Florida has adopted key pro-life laws and we are most grateful. These laws promote a "culture of life" among us.

Your support has encouraged the legislature to debate and ultimately pass an excellent pro-life bill this session, HB 633. It provides a 24-hour reflection period to women who have received already-required counseling by a physician prior to an abortion. We urge you to sign this bill into law.

Except for emergencies, common medical practice entails reflection between an explanation of options, risks and benefits and actually undergoing major invasive procedures. Abortion is a notable exception in that a patient may submit to a simple (pregnancy) test and then undergo a serious surgical procedure within a single visit.

Reflection periods are not uncommon in our statutes. They are required in Florida prior to marriage (three days), dissolution of marriage (20 days), purchase of a handgun (three days), and before cremation (48 hours).

We strongly support HB 633 and again urge your approval. Please let us know of any questions you may have. Be assured of our prayers for you and yours, and the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael B. Sheedy
Executive Director

cc: Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop of Miami
Most Reverend Felipe J. Estevez, Respect Life Moderator