



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
*Candidate Questionnaire Project*



2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE  
Florida House of Representatives District 98

**Joseph Anthony Cruz (REP)**

*Do you support or oppose...*

**ABORTION REGULATION:** Requiring parental consent before a minor child's abortion, notwithstanding previous judicial concerns?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Parental consent is a requirement in most any medical procedure a minor undertakes, and a procedure as significant as abortion should be no different.*

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:** Increasing access to care for uninsured Floridians, especially the working poor?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *All Floridians should have access to healthcare. In regard to the working poor, no individual that maintains a stable job and is a contributor to our community should worry about not being able to afford healthcare services. I will prioritize closing the coverage gap that has left millions of low income Floridians without access to this coverage.*

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Using all state housing trust funds as intended to address affordable housing needs in Florida?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *In the last decade, over \$2 billion has been diverted from housing trust funds towards the general budget in Florida. This is irresponsible on the part of the legislature as limits Floridians access to affordable housing; a pressing issue that must be addressed.*

**DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:** Ending Florida's use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole?

**SUPPORT**

**END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION:** Preserving Florida law that bans physician-assisted suicide?

**SUPPORT**

**FREEDOM TO SERVE:** Allowing individuals and organizations the freedom to serve the public in accord with reasoned conscientious beliefs related to sexuality and marriage?

**SUPPORT**

**IMMIGRATION:** Urging Congress to undertake extensive immigration reform, rather than adopting piecemeal state policies?

**SUPPORT**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** Establishing that children under 14 shall not be transferred to the adult criminal justice system?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Institutionalizing youth is a practice that should be avoided at all costs. This would lower recidivism and improve the long term prospects of juvenile offenders by focusing on rehabilitating rather than punishing. Juvenile detention centers should always be the primary location that individuals under the age of 14 are treated at, as it minimizes the traumatic impact the adult criminal justice system may have at such a tender age.*

**PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT:** Creating education savings accounts to use for nonpublic school tuition?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Empowering parents to make decisions regarding their children's education is key facet of my campaign platform. As a product of private Catholic schools in South Florida, I understand the positive impact that this can have in ones' life. Education savings account are an important way this can be accomplished.*

**SAFETY OF SCHOOLCHILDREN:** Expanding existing legislative initiatives to harden the physical security of nonpublic schools?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Taking legislative action to ensure the safety of all schools in Florida should be a priority of the Florida legislature in the next session. All children, regardless of if they attend public or private school, should be able to attend their classes without the fear of being terrorized. This is a significant costs for private schools to undertake independently and assistance should be similar to what the public school system receives.*