



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
*Candidate Questionnaire Project*

2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE  
Florida House of Representatives District 108

**Dotie Joseph (DEM)**

*Do you support or oppose...*

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

**NO RESPONSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *In general, I believe that parental input is important, and depending on the age of the minor, their consent may be required. However, I am unclear of what is meant by "previous judicial concerns," so for example, if that parent was adjudicated to be abusing that minor child, I don't think they should have ANY say in whether she can have an abortion.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *I am a huge proponent of increasing access to affordable healthcare of the under and uninsured. In fact, I believe we should have universal healthcare. The Bible teaches us to care for the poor, and if certain public hospital are properly funded, and costs are monitored and patient care is prioritized over profits--e.g. through transparency measures to compare costs across providers, as well as by implementing programs which call for standards of care in which treatment is based on patient outcomes as opposed to being driven insurance/pharmaceutical incentives*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Absolutely!*

**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?

**NO RESPONSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *In general, I am against euthanasia; however, I believe that some circumstances call for a decision to be made between the ailing patient, their doctor, and their families, as well as their faith.*

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

**NO RESPONSE**

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *In general, I support children being treated as children. However, sometimes, there needs to be latitude to have extra measures to deal with repeat offenders with harsher punishments and rehabilitation intervention than with other children. That said, any such latitude must absolutely take into consideration measures to counteract structural racism in the criminal justice system, which disproportionately punishes children of color for the exact same crimes—whether at the prosecution, adjudication or sentencing stage.*

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

**NO RESPONSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *People can create savings accounts for whatever they would like. It is unclear to me of the "education savings accounts" would have any kind of special benefits?*

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Safety is important for all of our children. Public funds should be used primarily for public schools. Further, while hardening measures sounds attractive, studies have shown that for hardening measures to be successful, they will take a lot of resources to guarantee their effectiveness--including ensuring that all entrances (windows & doors) are ALWAYS properly secured without exception, which requires significant man power and physical resources, among other things.*