



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
*Candidate Questionnaire Project*

2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE  
Florida Senate District 28

**Annisa Karim (DEM)**

*Do you support or oppose...*

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *In ideal circumstances, a minor would willingly tell their parents about a pregnancy. However, in some cases, the parent(s) may actually be responsible for the pregnancy. In these cases, a child could not seek parental consent without fear of repercussions. Additionally, the privacy clause (Article I, Section 23) in the State Constitution precludes requiring consent BEFORE an abortion. This right to privacy, the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life, includes all people regardless of age.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Floridians deserve quality, affordable health care and currently approximately 900,000 Floridians aren't receiving it. Many are part of the working poor. If our state implemented Medicaid expansion, these people would gain health care coverage, and taxpayers would be spared the burden of expensive hospital emergency care costs.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *The Sadowski Trust Fund sets aside money to be used specifically for affordable housing needs. Diverting this money for other uses or placing it in the general fund robs those that would otherwise qualify of the help they need to live with dignity.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Taking a person's life is wrong. It's that simple. Taking a life in the name of punishment is, therefore, also wrong. The death sentence does not act as a deterrent. Additionally, Florida has the highest number of death row exonerations and maintains the second most populous death row in the U.S. of nearly 400 people.*

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *I believe that a person, being of sound mind, should be able to work with their physician on end of life decisions when their quality of life is diminishing. In some circumstances, dying a long, agonizing death can be avoided if a person has the ability to make the decision on their own behalf. Physician-assisted suicide is comparable to a do not resuscitate order in that a physician is respecting one's own decision to have power over their life.*

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *As Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in Employment Division v. Smith, a 1990 case rejecting a church's attempt to use peyote in a sacrament:*

*The rule respondents favor would open the prospect of constitutionally required religious exemptions from civic obligations of almost every conceivable kind—ranging from compulsory military service, to the payment of taxes, to health and safety regulation such as manslaughter and child neglect laws, compulsory vaccination laws, drug laws, and traffic laws; to social welfare legislation such as minimum wage laws, child labor laws, animal cruelty laws, environmental protection laws, and laws providing for equality of opportunity for the races.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Immigration is a federal responsibility. State's do not distinguish citizenship as their own. As an immigrant, I remember my citizenship oath, "...that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic..."*

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

**SUPPORT**

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Florida has followed the principle "the money follows the child" for the past 20 years. As a result we are 40th in the nation for preK-12 education. I support any parent's right to send their child to a private school but using tax-payer dollars to do it is wrong. Many private schools are not held to the same account as our public schools and we, as taxpayers, lose transparency.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *Safety of all children, whether they attend public or private schools is paramount. I believe that private schools should be responsible for funding their own security but there is room to allow private entities to take advantage of any training that would be offered to public school so that they may also benefit from the knowledge gained.*