

# CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

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September 25, 2019

## **Written Testimony in Support of SB 18**

**To prohibit restraining or confining a woman or child who is a charged or adjudicated criminal offender or delinquent child at certain points during pregnancy or postpartum recovery**

Thank you, chairman Eklund, vice chairman Manning, ranking minority member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Jim Tobin. I am an Associate Director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio I urge your support for SB 18.

This legislation will help ensure that women and children who are pregnant within our criminal justice system are given the dignity, respect, and safety they deserve. Generally prohibiting the use of restraints on such persons during the third trimester, labor or postpartum recovery is right and just. The Catholic Conference of Ohio affirms the sponsors of SB 18, Senators Antonio and Lehner, for this important bipartisan effort.

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Thank you