

PBDCCW Legislative Report

February 22, 2025

This year has started off with a bang, with the election over and President Trump installed in office it feels like there are new things coming out of Washington DC daily. According to the white house website the president has signed approx. 100 presidential actions in the first 3 weeks in office.

Some of the things that President Trump signed include enforcing the Hyde act which prohibits federal funds from paying for abortions. On January 28th he signed an executive order to “protect children from chemical and surgical mutilation” this prevents drs from providing puberty blockers or other treatments for sex changes on children under 19. “Defending women from gender ideology extremism and restoring biological truth to the federal government” executive order signed on January 20th formally recognizes only two sexes in the US, and enforcing all sex protective laws, which will prevent men from being in women’s restrooms or locker rooms. “Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families” signed January 29th orders the department of education to facilitate educational choice nationwide, helping to reduce the financial barriers for a catholic education. He also signed executive orders to keep men out of women’s sports and to make D-Day a National Day of Remembrance on the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Closer to home Governor DeSantis ordered a special session of the state legislature to work on immigration policy to support President Trumps national immigration policy. After 3 special sessions they have come out with 2 bills and one resolution on immigration. The legislation will create a State Board of Immigration Enforcement, which is comprised of three cabinet members and serves as a resource for the federal government. The bills create new criminal offenses for migrants that enter the state after evading immigration enforcement with sentences ranging from 9 months to 2 years. It also makes it an automatic death penalty for an illegal alien convicted of a capital offense like rape or murder.

As the Catholic Church believes in life from conception to natural death the death penalty is one of the things the bishops oppose. There were a few things going on regarding the death penalty in the last few months. Aside from the new immigration enforcement laws in Florida, President Biden commuted the sentences of 37 of the 40 people on federal death row. Meanwhile President Trump reinstated the death penalty at the federal level.

With the Florida legislative session not starting for a few weeks we are sure to be in for a busy time at the rate we are going so far this year. The Florida legislative session starts March 4, 2025.