

Public Policy/Legislation Update, 10 June 2025

From the NYS Catholic Conference:

Medical Aid in Dying Bill #138 a/k/a Physician Assisted Suicide Bill passed in the Senate on Monday, June 9, and is now awaiting the Governor's signature to become law. It had previously passed in the Assembly.

NY Legislation to watch:

Kyra's Law (A.6194/S.5598) - This Law would require courts to evaluate abuse allegations and safety risks before granting custody or visitation. It would help judges resolve risk issues quickly and make informed decisions, avoiding long-term trauma and tragedy.

Consumer Direct Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) - A new bill introduced to expand the companies that oversee a \$9 billion Medicaid program that enables disabled or elderly New Yorkers to choose their home caregiver. The bill would create a new class of smaller companies, known as fiscal intermediaries, to give CDPAP users a choice about what organization they want to work with. This separate class of fiscal intermediaries would be required to have a contract with the state Health Department and operate at the health commissioner's discretion, or must work with independent living centers that have operated as a program fiscal intermediary since January 1, 2024.

Federal Legislation Introduced:

Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act - Would categorize all prenatal and postpartum expenses as essential health benefits, which means insurance companies will be required to fully cover the cost of all childbirth related services, including ultrasounds, fetal monitoring, labor and delivery, and physical and mental health support after giving birth.

Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act - Zero-cost legislation to improve access to care for seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. The bill focuses on streamlining the often cumbersome and time-consuming prior authorization process. This legislation would help physicians better serve and improve care for the 32.8 million Americans including the over 2 million New Yorkers enrolled in an MA plan.

Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2025 - This version expands second chance programs to include treating substance use disorders through various

mechanisms, including peer recovery programs; reentry housing; grants for nonprofits that provide transitional and community-based mentoring services; and an extension of second chance programs through 2030.

Update on the **Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA)**: The US House of Representatives has approved the Act, bringing educational opportunities for families in all 50 states one step closer. The measure is now being considered by the U. S. Senate.

From Catholic Charities USA/USCCB/MRS/JFI:

Budget Reconciliation Bill is now in the Senate having passed the House. The bill must undergo revisions because of the deep cuts it presently would make in healthcare and food for low-income people. It would take health care (Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act) away from 13.7 million people and could take food assistance (SNAP) away from 11 million people. It would also take away the Child Tax Credit from 4 million children because one parent does not have a Social Security number.

Immigration provisions “double down on an unsustainable enforcement-only approach...”, according to Archbishop Broglio of the USCCB. There are “provisions that penalize families who go to painstaking lengths to comply with the law, including those fleeing persecution.” Also, the USCCB is “...deeply concerned about the unprecedented levels of mandatory funding that would escalate enforcement far beyond the legitimate goals of promoting public safety and bringing to justice those who commit crimes...”

CC USA and the USCCB urge us to contact our US Senators and make our voice heard about this bill. www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy

New Legislation:

The **TAKE IT DOWN Act** - Signed into law on May 19, 2025, addresses the issue of non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII) and deepfakes. It criminalizes the online publication of such images, including digitally created ones, and mandates that online platforms promptly remove NCII upon receiving notice from a victim. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is responsible for enforcing the law. First Lady Melania Trump was instrumental in getting this legislation passed.

New Proclamation:

Travel Ban Policy: This prevents people from a dozen countries from entering the

United States, including from Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Also, there will be heightened restrictions on visitors from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Thank you for your advocacy.

Marie Copeland, Chair