

New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



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**Diocese of Gallup**, Most Reverend James S. Wall  
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The New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops endorses the passage of Senate Bill 17 to ban some firearms and to regulate gun dealers and gun shows. We know that we must keep in mind the victims of gun violence, reduce the number of military-style weapons on the street, and hold dealers accountable. Despite the possibility of constitutional challenges, we must advance legislation that protects society. We pray that the court system will interpret the legislation—or any newly passed law—in a light favorable to the original intention of the Constitution.

The Constitution of the United States of America is a living document. Over the past 250 years, Supreme Court justices have brought new light to its interpretation and meaning, always for the protection of the people's current needs. The legislation should pass the House of Representatives, and if it must face the scrutiny of the courts, so be it. Interpretation must always be seen through the lens of society's needs and protection. We continue to pray for the victims of gun violence.

Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe

Most Reverend James S. Wall, Diocese of Gallup

Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Diocese of Las Cruces