



# Responding with Love

## Legislative Proposals for a Sanctuary of Life from the North Dakota Catholic Conference

Like many North Dakotans, we rejoiced after the *Dobbs* decision. But as we said then: “We cannot . . . rest with overturning *Roe* and legally protecting unborn life. Building a culture of life means making abortion unthinkable. This will require all parts of society to reexamine and address what they can do so that no woman ever feels that the death of her child is the answer to any situation. Businesses, families, churches, charities, and governments must support and implement policies and practices that are pro-family, pro-woman, and pro-child.”

The North Dakota legislature must also move forward with legislation reflecting the state’s love for all pregnant women, their children, new mothers, and families. To help build a sanctuary for life, the North Dakota Catholic Conference makes the following proposals for the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

- **Expand the Alternatives to Abortion Program** to cover more services and individuals;
- **Enact Sales Tax Exemptions** for diapers and infant car seats;
- **Strengthen the Pregnant Worker’s Fairness Act** to protect pregnant employees;
- **Establish a Life Resources Website** to provide a one-stop location where women, families, and providers can find the help they need;
- **Reduce the Costs of Adoption** by providing an adoption tax credit and by covering the costs of home inspections;
- **Close gaps in Medicaid and TANF** when it comes to pregnant women and newborns; and
- **Create a tax credit for donations** to pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies.

This list is not exclusive. The conference encourages legislators to tackle other issues that impact pregnant women, unborn children, and families, such as the childcare crisis in the state. Some of the matters could possibly be addressed in other ways. We hope, however, that the list provides an essential foundation for the state’s contribution to making North Dakota a sanctuary for life.

[For more information, go to: https://ndcatholic.org/statements/rwl](https://ndcatholic.org/statements/rwl)