2014 Legislative Concerns and Priorities

EDUCATION

- Supports expanding tax credits for individuals, businesses, or financial institutions who contribute to a “school tuition organization” that provides scholarships to low- and middle-income children who want to attend a nonpublic school.
- Supports the equitable participation of nonpublic school children in federal- and state-funded programs.
- Supports full funding of public schools for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

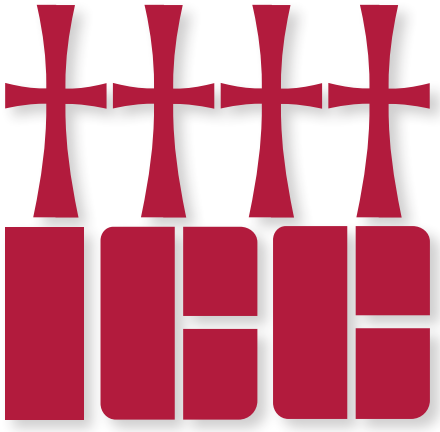
- Supports efforts to expand family strengthening programs, improve childcare programs and increase welfare payments to poor families and children in Iowa.

PRO LIFE

- Supports protection of human life and dignity as a foundational principle, including limitations on late-term and “webcam” abortions.
- Supports alternatives to abortion for women by providing funding to programs that assist women in crisis pregnancies.
- Supports efforts to provide women with a choice to be fully informed about abortion.
- Opposes any state efforts to legalize assisted suicide and/or euthanasia.
- Supports funding for research using non-embryonic stem cells.
- Opposes the death penalty.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

- Supports initiatives that protect religious liberty and the legitimate exercise of the freedom of conscience.



SOCIAL CONCERNS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- Supports legislation that prohibits sentencing juveniles to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- Opposes disproportionate cuts to programs that support the poor and vulnerable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Supports measures to preserve, protect, and improve the quality of the air, water, and land in Iowa.
- Supports strict enforcement of present environmental laws and adequate state funding for this purpose. The Conference favors local control.

HEALTH CARE

- Supports state initiatives which would make health care more readily available and affordable to all Iowans, including immigrants and their children.
- Opposes direct or indirect public funding of abortion.
- Supports the conscience rights of medical professionals and institutions.

IMMIGRATION

- Supports the basic human rights of documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees.
- Opposes efforts to make state and local police responsible for the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

RURAL LIFE

- Supports the creation and growth of small business in Iowa’s rural communities.