



NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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RICHARD E. BARNES
Executive Director

January 2010

To whom it may concern,

The New York State Catholic Conference represents the Bishops of New York State in matters of public policy. The role of the Conference is to seek justice, fairness and charity for all, with a particular emphasis on the poor and vulnerable. Each year, the Conference issues a legislative agenda outlining specific objectives in the public policy arena. This agenda is based on a consistent set of social justice principles drawn from Gospel values and Catholic Social teaching, and transcends political platforms or ideologies.

In March of each year, the Conference sponsors a Public Policy Forum, in which Catholics from across New York State gather in Albany to advocate for some of these agenda issues. The Forum this year will be held on Tuesday, March 9, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Many young people throughout the state want to participate in this day of advocacy, to learn more about the issues and our government, and possibly to speak to members of the legislature.

The New York State Catholic Conference encourages high school age youth to be a part of this day to learn how to become more socially aware and active, and to continue their political responsibilities long after the Albany event. It is our hope that those students wanting to participate in this Public Policy Day may do so as an excused absence from school in light of the educational opportunity offered throughout the day-long process.

If you have any questions regarding this day, please feel free to call me.

Very truly yours,

Richard E. Barnes