



CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE of Massachusetts
35 MONTCLAIR AVENUE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02131

TEL. (617) 524-6309
FAX (617) 524-0461

January 30, 2002

Dear Representative:

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts urges you to oppose Senate Bill No.2139, AN ACT PROVIDING EQUITABLE COVERAGE OF SERVICES UNDER HEALTH PLANS, which would mandate contraceptive coverage in employer sponsored group health insurance plans.

This measure would force Catholic employers, against their consciences, and Catholic institutions, in violation of their sincerely held religious beliefs, to subsidize, through their insurance plans, contraceptives, including abortifacients, such as the morning-after pill.

The narrowly drawn religious exemption clause in the legislation would apply only to church controlled entities, such as archdiocesan and diocesan agencies. The vast majority of Catholic colleges and universities, private Catholic secondary schools, Catholic social service providers and non-profit organizations, and even Catholic hospitals would be coerced into paying for artificial birth control and chemical abortions, both of which are unequivocally condemned by the Catholic religion.

The religious freedom guarantees found in the free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and in Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution, ensure not only the freedom of worship, but the right of religious believers to act in accordance with their religious conscience. In our constitutional tradition, that conscience ought not to be burdened unless there is a compelling state interest.

Our society celebrates as values pluralism, tolerance, and diversity. We urge you to uphold pluralism, show tolerance, and respect diversity, by protecting the religious freedom rights of Catholic citizens and voting to oppose Senate No.2139.

Sincerely

Daniel T. Flatley
President

DTF/em

16 July 2002

The Honorable Thomas M. Finneran
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House, Room 356
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Thank you for your support of the Protection of Marriage Amendment. On behalf of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, I am writing to you to request your assistance to ensure that the rights of 130,000 Massachusetts citizens are respected tomorrow during the Constitutional Convention.

As you are already aware, press reports indicate that Senate President Birmingham will attempt to frustrate the democratic process by preventing this measure from coming to a vote. We would be most grateful, therefore, if you would bring to bear the influence of your office to guarantee that the Constitution is respected and that fair play is allowed to prevail.

As always, please be assured that your longstanding support of traditional moral values is remembered and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Flatley
President

DTF:jbc



CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE of Massachusetts
35 MONTCLAIR AVENUE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02131

TEL. (617) 524-6309
FAX (617) 524-0461

Board of Advisors

Walter L. Almond
Hon. William M. Bulger
Hon. Edward J. King
Hon. Joseph R. Nolan
Barbara A. Rockett, M.D.
John W. Spillane

Founders

Hon. John F. Collins
Dr. Joseph R. Stanton

Board of Directors

Mary P. Collins
Gregory M. Dunn
Andrea Griffin Holmes
Alfred A. Lagan
Thomas M. Ledbetter
Frederick D. Long, Jr.
Susan C. Gallagher Long
John J. MacIsaac
Michael A. McDonald

Officers

Daniel T. Flatley
President & Chairman

Robert P. Largess
Vice-President

Robert C. Almond
Secretary

Frederick M. Kelley
Treasurer

William P. Monahan
Counsel

Rev. James M. DiPerri
Chaplain

C. Joseph Doyle
Executive Director

Joseph B. Craven, Jr.
Executive Secretary

29 August 2002

Mr. Jim Koch, *Chairman*
The Boston Beer Company
75 Arlington Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Koch:

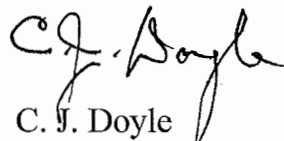
Thank you for calling me Monday afternoon to apologize for your participation, and your company's participation, in the August 15th outrage at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, which was broadcast on the former *Opie & Anthony Show* on WNEW Radio. That incident, in which a couple engaged in public intercourse in America's most prominent Catholic church while it was crowded with worshippers on a Holy Day of Obligation, was part of a radio station contest in which your company offered the prize, and during which you were personally present in the studio.

This vile episode was an insult, a sacrilege, and a crime. Its purpose, beyond promoting your product and garnering ratings for WNEW, was to shock, offend, and express contempt for Catholics and their religion.

The authenticity of any apology which you care to present must be judged on your willingness to accompany words of remorse with a firm resolve to avoid committing the same offense again. I urge you, therefore, to demonstrate good faith and give credibility to your apology by pledging to refrain from sponsoring radio programs that have a history of Catholic bashing.

I look forward to hearing of your decision in this matter.

Sincerely,



C. J. Doyle
Executive Director



CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE of Massachusetts
35 MONTCLAIR AVENUE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02131

TEL. (617) 524-6309
FAX (617) 524-0461

Board of Advisors

Walter L. Almond
Hon. William M. Bulger
Hon. Edward J. King
Hon. Joseph R. Nolan
Barbara A. Rockett, M.D.
John W. Spillane

Founders

Hon. John F. Collins
Dr. Joseph R. Stanton

Board of Directors

Mary P. Collins
Gregory M. Dunn
Andrea Griffin Holmes
Alfred A. Lagan
Thomas M. Ledbetter
Frederick D. Long, Jr.
Susan C. Gallagher Long
John J. MacIsaac
Michael A. McDonald

Officers

Daniel T. Flatley
President & Chairman

Robert P. Largess
Vice-President

Robert C. Almond
Secretary

Frederick M. Kelley
Treasurer

William P. Monahan
Counsel

Rev. James M. DiPerri
Chaplain

C. Joseph Doyle
Executive Director

Joseph B. Craven, Jr.
Executive Secretary

17 November 2002

Her Excellency, Jane M. Swift
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, I am writing to you to oppose the appointment of Andrea Cabral as Sheriff of Suffolk County.

On February 28, 1994, the Massachusetts Court of Appeals overturned the conviction of Father Thomas Carleton, who had been found guilty of violating a court injunction forbidding the blockade of abortion clinics in Massachusetts. The court ruled that then Assistant Attorney General Cabral, who served as prosecutor in *Commonwealth v. Thomas Carleton*, had deprived the defendant of a fair trial by improperly excluding prospective jurors with Irish surnames because of their presumed Catholic Faith. Defense attorneys argued at the time that Cabral's attempt at discriminatory exclusion had also extended to those with Italian and Portuguese surnames. On November 10, 1994, the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth upheld the decision of the Court of Appeals.

Establishing a religious test for public office, such as trial juror, is proscribed by Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, Article III of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution, and by the 11th and 106th Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. Andrea Cabral was either ignorant of these constitutional protections or deliberately and contemptuously chose to disregard them.

It is astonishing to us, therefore, that at a time of heightened sensitivity to issues of civil rights and racial profiling, you would consider appointing as the chief law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth's most important county a former public official who was found to have engaged in unlawful ethnic profiling and unconstitutional religious discrimination against Irish Catholics.

Her Excellency, Jane M. Swift

Page Two

What is, perhaps, most offensive is the underlying assumption motivating Ms. Cabral's conduct, that Catholic jurors would violate their oath and fail in their obligation to administer justice because the defendant was a minister of their religion. Such thinking smacks of crude prejudice and virulent bigotry, and panders to archaic, 19th century anti-Catholic stereotypes about dual loyalty.

Those who engage in religious discrimination cannot be trusted to impartially enforce the law, nor should bigots be rewarded with higher office. I urge you to desist from making this improvident appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. J. Doyle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

C. J. Doyle
Executive Director

CJD:jbc

12 December 2002

His Eminence, Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston
Cardinal's Residence
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

Your Eminence:

In this time of grave scandal and turbulent difficulty for the Church, we, the representatives of the following Catholic lay organizations, would like you to know that we are aware of your profound sorrow for the grievous suffering of the innocent victims of clerical sexual abuse, and their families. We are also aware of your determination to effect genuine reforms that will prevent these lamentable incidents of abuse from ever occurring again. We believe that you are willing to make the sacrifice of remaining in your apostolic office so that a future Archbishop of Boston will not have to begin his episcopate with the onerous burden of the current crisis.

As our shepherd, we know of your unfailing loyalty to our Holy Father, the Pope, and your lifelong fidelity to all of the teachings of our Holy Mother, the Church. We know of your courageous and steadfast defense of the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We also know of your love of the poor and your commitment to social justice.

In your nineteen years as Archbishop, many of us have come to admire and appreciate your personal compassion, your many private acts of Christian charity, and the numerous corporal and spiritual works of mercy that you have performed, for which you have neither sought nor received public recognition.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we believe that this is a time for all faithful Catholics to act with Christian forbearance, and practice forgiveness and reconciliation.

We have a prudent concern that a dangerous precedent would be established if powerful forces in secular society, hostile to Catholic values, would succeed in forcing a change in the leadership of the Church of Boston. We believe that the liberty of a future Archbishop of Boston would be jeopardized if hate speech and intimidation on the steps of our Cathedral

are rewarded rather than resisted. We are concerned that your departure at this time would embolden those who would make Catholic teaching conform to the transient fashions of modern culture.

You are our Father in God, the head of our spiritual family. As such, we believe it would be not only wrong, but dishonorable, to sacrifice you to the enmity of those who repudiate and despise our family. While we will support any decision that you ultimately make, we hope and pray that you will remain with us as our shepherd. We pledge our help, support, and continued prayers in your efforts to bring healing to the Church in Boston.

Respectfully,

Philip D. Moran, Esq.
General Counsel
Catholic Alliance

Richard A. MacDonald
President
Massachusetts State Board
Ancient Order of Hibernians

C. Joseph Doyle
Executive Director
Catholic Action League of Massachusetts

Carol McKinley
Founder and President
Faithful Voice