



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

TEL. (617) 524-6309  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524 - 6309

### **SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT AGREES TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT IN LEAGUE PETITION TO STAY *GOODRIDGE***

In an unexpected turn of events, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has agreed to hear oral argument in the petition of C. J. Doyle, Executive Director of the Catholic Action League, seeking to stay the court's November 2003 decision in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which mandated legal recognition of same-gender civil marriage in the Commonwealth. Doyle has asked the court to suspend implementation of its ruling pending the outcome of the process to amend the state constitution.

The League is being represented by Attorney Chester Darling of Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights, and by Attorney Robert Muise of the Thomas More Law Center. Darling is best remembered for his 9-0 Supreme Court victory in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade case.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle made the following comment: "The people of Massachusetts and their elected representatives ought to be able to decide a fundamental issue of law, vital to the well-being of society, without preemption by the court. By implementing *Goodridge* before the matter was decided by majority rule, the court has placed proponents of traditional marriage in the invidious position of attempting to roll back an existing practice, thus erecting, much to their disfavor, a daunting and, perhaps insurmountable political barrier. Like the citizens of the eleven states who voted to oppose same-gender marriage in November 2004, the citizens of this Commonwealth must be allowed to make their decision unencumbered by the ruling of the court."

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts is an anti-defamation and religious freedom rights organization. Ten members of the League were the plaintiffs in *Connors v. City of Boston*, the case which resulted in a unanimous decision by the Supreme Judicial Court overturning Boston's domestic partner program.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE OPPOSES** **EMBRYONIC STEM CELL BILL**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today submitted written testimony to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies, opposing Senate Bill 25, An Act Promoting Stem Cell Research, which would authorize and support embryonic stem cell research in the Commonwealth. The League called the measure "an unnecessary aggression against the sanctity of human life on behalf of a lucrative special interest."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "Embryonic stem cell research consists of the hideous and Frankensteinian practice of creating human life in order to cannibalize it. This harvesting of human life is founded upon the unethical premise that some life may be expendable for the benefit of others, a textbook example of the utilitarian conception that the end justifies the means. Its motives are rooted in profit and politics — profit for the increasingly powerful biotechnology industry, and political advantage for Democrats who view this as a wedge issue to discredit their Republican opponents."

"Although the bill prohibits reproductive cloning, it will open the door to therapeutic cloning. Although the bill itself does not now call for the expenditure of state tax dollars for embryonic stem cell research, that will be the inevitable result of its passage."

"Morally unrestrained science in the cynical pursuit of greed and political gamesmanship is a deplorable basis for public policy. The legislation ought to be rejected."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

# **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE OPPOSES WEAKENING OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS ON CONTRACEPTION**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today announced its opposition to a proposed weakening of Department of Public Health regulations governing the distribution of oral contraceptives in the Commonwealth. Under a plan being considered by the Public Health Council, non-medical staff at so-called family planning clinics would now be permitted to dispense refills of prescriptions for birth control pills. The League is calling the proposal “a special interest measure to benefit the most powerful vested interest in the population control industry – Planned Parenthood.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “This plan would not only lower professional standards, thus endangering the health of women, but would effectively remove one of the few remaining restrictions on the distribution of contraceptives in Massachusetts. The development of the birth control pill, and the subsequent legalization of contraception, proved to be the seminal events of the sexual revolution, which has resulted in a prodigious increase in divorce, abortions, illegitimacy, fatherlessness, fornication, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. This is not the direction in which responsible public policy makers ought to be heading.”

“Contraception is not only the stepping stone to abortion, but insofar as birth control pills may prevent, in some instances, an embryo from attaching to the uterine wall, these oral contraceptives may also cause chemical abortions.”

“After forty years, the sexual revolution may rightly be judged a societal disaster. We should not reward one of its architects, Planned Parenthood, with this reckless and irresponsible deregulatory scheme.”



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE OPPOSES EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION BILL**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts offered testimony today before the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Health opposing the so-called Emergency Contraception Bill. This measure, if enacted, would coerce Catholic hospitals and Catholic medical professionals into performing chemical abortions by forcing them to dispense the abortifacient morning-after pill.

The Catholic Action League characterized the measure as "a heavy handed aggression against the consciences and the constitutional rights of Catholics."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "This proposed legislation, if it becomes law, will force Catholic doctors, nurses, and medical personnel at secular hospitals to choose between violating their consciences or forfeiting their jobs. Catholic medical institutions will be presented with the choice of costly litigation to contest this measure, non-compliance, which is to say civil disobedience, or closure. The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of health care services in the United States. If the Catholic Church is forced out of the health care industry, an oppressive burden would be imposed on the already strained health care system in the Commonwealth, which ultimately would have to be borne by the taxpayer."

"The free exercise of religion is guaranteed by both the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and even more broadly, by Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution. The jurisprudence of both the United States and the Commonwealth have long held that the exercise of religion consists not only of the liberty to worship, but the right to act in accordance with one's religious principles."

"At a time when society professes to celebrate the values of tolerance, pluralism, and diversity, it is astonishing that such an illiberal, authoritarian, and constitutionally defective proposal is being contemplated against Catholics."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS IN CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE PETITION TO STAY *GOODRIDGE***

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court will hear oral arguments this morning in the petition of C. J. Doyle, Executive Director of the Catholic Action League, seeking to stay the court's November 2003 decision in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which mandated legal recognition of same-gender civil marriage in the Commonwealth. Doyle has asked the court to suspend implementation of its ruling pending the outcome of the process to amend the state constitution.

Doyle is being represented in this case, *Doyle v. Goodridge*, by Attorney Chester Darling of Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights, and by Attorney Robert Muise of the Thomas More Law Center. Darling is best remembered for his 9-0 Supreme Court victory in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade case.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle made the following comment: "The people of Massachusetts and their elected representatives ought to be able to decide a fundamental issue of law, vital to the well-being of society, without preemption by the court. By implementing *Goodridge* before the matter was decided by majority rule, the court has significantly disadvantaged proponents of traditional marriage, placing them in the invidious position of attempting to roll back an existing practice, thus erecting, much to their disfavor, a daunting and, perhaps insurmountable political barrier. Like the citizens of the eleven states who voted to oppose same-gender marriage in November 2004, the citizens of this Commonwealth must be allowed to make their decision unencumbered by the ruling of the court."

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts is an anti-defamation and religious freedom rights organization. Ten members of the League were the plaintiffs in *Connors v. City of Boston*, the case which resulted in a unanimous decision by the Supreme Judicial Court overturning Boston's domestic partner program.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2005  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE  
(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CRITICIZES SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT ON MARRIAGE RULING**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today criticized the Supreme Judicial Court for its negative ruling in *Doyle vs. Goodridge*, the petition by League Executive Director C. J. Doyle requesting the court to stay its decision legalizing same-sex marriage until the people had the opportunity to vote on the issue in the constitutional amendment process.

The League called the ruling “lamentable, but entirely predictable.”

C. J. Doyle stated: “This unfortunate, yet not unforeseen decision, in which the judiciary once again failed to offer redress for its own excesses, underscores the necessity of keeping such fundamental issues of law in the hands of the people and their elected representatives, not the unelected, unaccountable, and increasingly unresponsive branch of government, which the judiciary has become. Because of today’s ruling, proponents of traditional marriage will continue to be significantly disadvantaged, after being placed in the invidious position of having to roll back an existing practice, thus erecting, much to their disfavor, a daunting and perhaps insurmountable political barrier.”

“The Catholic Action League will continue to oppose the original *Goodridge* decision through the democratic forum of amending the Commonwealth’s constitution. The current amendment before the legislature, which would force voters to enshrine civil unions in the constitution as a condition for prohibiting same-gender marriage, remains morally impossible for Catholics. The citizens of Massachusetts deserve an honest, straightforward, up-or-down vote on the protection of traditional marriage, which can only occur if there is a new initiative petition amendment.”

## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE OPPOSES STATE INTRUSION INTO CHURCH FINANCES**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today offered testimony before the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Judiciary opposing the bill sponsored by State Senators Marian Walsh and Jarrett Barrios, which would subject the finances of religious denominations to supervision by the Public Charities Division of the Attorney General's Office. The measure is being supported by various Catholic dissidents, including those connected with Voice of the Faithful and the Council on Parishes.

The Catholic Action League called the Walsh-Barrios bill "a burdensome, intrusive, and constitutionally prohibited excessive government entanglement with religion."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle, in testimony before the Judiciary Committee, stated: "Unlike secular charities, religious bodies are afforded protections guaranteed by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and by Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution. As existing statutes already prohibit financial malfeasance, there can be no compelling state interest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts inserting itself in an internal religious dispute between the Archdiocese of Boston and the various dissident groups who are promoting this piece of legislation."

"Although the bill would apply to all religious bodies in the Commonwealth, its open, specific, and frankly, punitive targeting of one religious entity further diminishes its constitutional propriety. It would likely fail the *Lemon vs. Kurtzman* test on various grounds."

"The timing of this proposed law is especially unfortunate and inappropriate. One Massachusetts town is attempting to re-zone religious property to inhibit its sale. The selectmen of another town are attempting to levy property taxes on an unused church building. The City of Boston is actually contemplating a non-binding referendum judging the *conduct* of the Archdiocese of Boston. A period of such multiple aggressions against the constitutionally protected liberty of the Catholic Church, unheard of since the days of the Know-Nothings, is not the proper time to further erode the separation of church and state. Indeed, it demands greater vigilance by lawmakers in safeguarding religious freedom rights in Massachusetts."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE  
(617) 524-6309

## **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE APPLAUDS DEFEAT OF TRAVAGLINI / LEES AMENDMENT**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today applauded the defeat of the proposed constitutional amendment sponsored by Senate President Robert Travaglini (D-Boston) and Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees (R-East Longmeadow), which would have prohibited same-gender marriages while establishing a constitutional recognition of homosexual civil unions. This legislative amendment to the constitution, which was passed by the legislature in 2004, would have gone on the ballot in 2006 had it been approved today. Its defeat now clears the way for an initiative petition amendment that will ban same-sex marriage without instituting civil unions.

The Catholic Action League called the defeated proposal “a fatally flawed measure, satisfying no one, contrived by politicians pretending to oppose same-sex marriage, yet terrified of offending the homosexual lobby.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “This intrinsically defective amendment was a cynical attempt to divide and sabotage the pro-family movement by legislative careerists devoid of principles and indifferent to the common good. Had it gone forward, citizens would have been forced to enshrine civil unions in the constitution as a condition for protecting marriage. That would have been a moral impossibility for Catholics and many others who believe in traditional morality.”

“The initiative petition amendment will offer citizens the opportunity for an honest, straightforward, up-or-down vote on protecting marriage without the contradictions inherent in the Travaglini / Lees amendment.”

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts is a member of the Coalition For Marriage & Family. League Executive Director C. J. Doyle is one of the signatories of the initiative petition amendment to protect traditional marriage.





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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE**  
**(617) 524-6309**

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE DENOUNCES** **HOMOSEXUAL PROTESTS AT CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today denounced the presence of homosexual protestors at Catholic churches in Greater Boston, who were trying to pressure Catholics not to sign initiative petition papers for a constitutional amendment banning same-gender marriage. At Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston, homosexual militants held signs proclaiming "You Sign And You're On-Line," referring to the web site [knowthyneighbor.org](http://knowthyneighbor.org), which is posting the names and addresses of anyone who signs the petition supporting traditional marriage.

The Catholic Action League called the protests "a raw, unconcealed attempt to intimidate Catholics from exercising their constitutional rights."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "First, homosexual activists post the names and home addresses of petition signers on their web site, and then they physically confront worshipers with signs reminding them of that fact. No reasonable person can now deny that this is being done to create a climate of fear among Catholics who support traditional marriage. Only an extremist would go to a house of worship on the Sabbath to bully people engaged in constitutionally protected activity."

"Given the history of aggressive, confrontational and borderline violent behavior by homosexual militants in Boston, including but not limited to the harassment of signature gatherers in the past, the invasion of Catholic churches, the disruption of pro-life events, and the infamous condom-throwing and obscenity-shouting incident at the Cathedral following the ordination of Catholic priests, Catholics have every reason to feel threatened."

"This is one more example of the calculated contempt homosexual activists have for the rights, sensibilities, and sincerely held religious beliefs of others. In the ninety year history of initiative petitions in the Commonwealth, this sort of harassment is uncivil, unprecedented, and unparalleled in its malice, and demonstrates their fundamental hostility to the democratic process."

"Under Chapter 265, Section 37 of the General Laws, intimidating or threatening anyone in the exercise of their constitutional rights is a crime in Massachusetts, and since 1990, has been a hate crime. The time is long overdue for Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley, and Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole to arrest and prosecute these bigoted thugs masquerading as aggrieved victims of prejudice."

## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE APPLAUDS BOSTON ARCHBISHOP O'MALLEY FOR BOYCOTTING CATHOLIC CHARITIES DINNER**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today applauded the decision of Boston Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley not to attend the Annual Christmas Dinner of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston because this year's honoree is Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, a supporter of legal abortion, same-gender marriage, and condoms in schools.

The League called O'Malley's decision "an act of courage, integrity, and fidelity to the teachings of the Church."

On Friday, League President Daniel T. Flatley wrote to the Archbishop urging him to boycott the event. The League also prepared a document detailing Mayor Menino's longstanding record of dissent on Catholic issues.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "On virtually every question of public morality, Thomas Menino has callously and continually repudiated the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. As a political figure who has promoted condom distribution and homosexual programs in the Boston Public Schools, who boycotts the Saint Patrick's Day Parade while leading the Gay Pride Parade, and who has defended the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion, Mayor Menino has repeatedly demonstrated himself to be an adversary of the Catholic Faith, an opponent of Catholic morality, and a supporter of the culture of death. Why any Catholic organization would wish to honor this apostate is beyond comprehension."

"The ludicrous assertion by Catholic Charities that this man should be honored for his housing and welfare policies, despite his support for the legalized killing of 46 million pre-born children since *Roe v. Wade*, is rather like saying that Mussolini made the trains run on time. Catholic Charities should withdraw its invitation to Mayor Menino and apologize to the Archbishop and the Catholic community for its complicity in this grave scandal. If Catholic Charities fails to do so, its annual dinner ought to be boycotted and protested."

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE  
(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE TO DEMONSTRATE AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL DINNER**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts will hold a demonstration at 5:15 this evening in front of the Boston Harbor Hotel on Atlantic Avenue at Rowes Wharf, to protest the decision of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston to confer an award on Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino at their Annual Christmas Dinner.

Mayor Menino is a supporter of abortion, same-sex marriage, and condom distribution in schools, positions directly contrary to Catholic moral teachings.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle made the following comment: "Why any organization which bears the name Catholic would want to honor someone who has spent his entire political career repudiating Catholic moral teaching across virtually the entire spectrum of social issues, is as incomprehensible as it is outrageous. We urge all faithful Catholics to protest this scandalous and deplorable decision."