



CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE of Massachusetts
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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE WILL MONITOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS OF LEGISLATORS

In light of the Supreme Judicial Court ruling that Bay State lawmakers have a clear obligation under the Constitution to vote on the initiative amendment defining marriage, the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts will monitor future appointments of legislators to the bench as judges and clerk magistrates. In the case of those legislators nominated for judicial office who evaded their responsibility to vote on the marriage amendment, the League will raise the issue of their non-compliance with the Constitution during their confirmation hearings before the Governor's Council.

The Catholic Action League called this step "a necessary and appropriate response to an egregious dereliction of duty by lawyer/legislators who, as officers of the court, ought to know better."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "Any legislator who violates the Constitution is manifestly unfit to enforce and interpret the laws according to the Constitution as a jurist. Any member of the General Court who fails to abide by his or her oath of office cannot be trusted to adhere to that same oath as a member of the judiciary. Since moral reasoning seems to have so little effect on our senators and representatives, they ought to understand that there will be practical consequences for their unconstitutional behavior."



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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE APPLAUDS VOTE ON MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today applauded the vote by the Massachusetts Legislature, meeting in joint Constitutional Convention, to move forward an initiative amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. If approved by the 2007-2008 Legislature, the proposed amendment, which received the signatures of more than 170,000 Bay State voters on an initiative petition, will be placed on the November 2008 ballot for ratification by the people. The measure received 62 votes, 12 more than the one quarter of the convention required by the Constitution.

The Catholic Action League hailed the vote as "a victory for moral sanity, constitutional government, the rights of the people, and the rule of law."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "It has taken five years, two initiative petition drives, three lawsuits, a Supreme Judicial Court ruling, cajoling by the Governor, thousands of letters, phone calls, and e-mails, and threats of everything from ethics complaints before the Bar Association to promises of future opposition at confirmation hearings for lawmakers nominated to the bench to compel the men and women of the Massachusetts General Court to abide by their oath of office and comply with the Constitution --- and then they only did so on the very last day of the session, after more procedural maneuvers. On the whole, their evasions, foot-dragging and obstructionism has been disgraceful. Pressure, not principle, is what motivated many of our legislators to finally do the right thing."

"This battle will now be refought, perhaps with even greater intensity, over the next two years."

The Catholic Action League is a member of the Coalition for Marriage. League Executive Director C.J. Doyle was one of the original signatories of the initiative petition, and was one of the plaintiffs in the SJC suit, *Doyle v. Secretary of the Commonwealth*.



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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE DENOUNCES STATEMENT BY CATHOLIC HOUSE DEMOCRATS

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today denounced the statement by 18 Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including Congressman Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island, which criticized Pope Benedict XVI for warning Catholic politicians who support abortion that they risk excommunication and should exclude themselves from Holy Communion. In the statement, entitled *Catholic Members of Congress Express Concern Over Church Sanctions*, the signatories claim to embrace Church teaching about respect for life as "our own life's mission", but go on to say "...that religious sanction in the political arena directly conflicts with our fundamental belief about the role and responsibility of democratic representatives in a pluralistic America - it also clashes with freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution. Such notions offend the very nature of the American experiment and do a great disservice to the centuries of good work the church has done."

The Catholic Action League called the statement: "a cynical exercise in damage control characterized by hypocrisy, intellectual dishonesty and a shameful attempt to resurrect nativist stereotypes about the Catholic Church and American politics."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "The Know-Nothing Party, the American Protective Association and the opponents of Al Smith would have no disagreement with the argument made by the House Democrats that the Pope's remarks clash with the Constitution. The irony here is that this crude recycling of archaic anti-Catholic rhetoric comes not from the Klan or from a gathering of fundamentalist preachers, but from 18 nominally Catholic members of the U.S. Congress, who are evidently frightened that the Church may finally do something about fork-tongued politicians who perpetuate their careers by pandering to the pro-abortion leadership, activist cadres, and major donor base of the Democratic Party while pretending to be Catholic."

"The free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of religious denominations to define their own boundaries, and to decide who is, and who is not, within those boundaries. It is up to the Pope, and to those bishops who are in communion with him, to interpret the Faith and determine the discipline of the Catholic Church. Catholic politicians have no right to expect preferential treatment or favored exemptions when it comes to matters of Christian morality."



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE OPPOSES NEW BUFFER ZONE LEGISLATION

At a public hearing today in the Massachusetts State House, the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts offered testimony against a bill to broaden the buffer zone law, which criminalizes free speech outside of abortion clinics.

The League called the measure “a chilling assault on civil liberty and religious freedom”, and said it was “deplorable public policy.”

Testifying before the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “The proposed expansion of existing buffer zone legislation represents yet another effort to impose a content based restriction on freedom of speech, and to impair other constitutionally protected First Amendment activity such as freedom of religion and freedom of assembly. Buffer zones do nothing to promote public safety or enhance physical security at abortion clinics, and everything to penalize law-abiding citizens practicing non-violent opposition to abortion, including those engaged in peaceful prayer on public sidewalks.”

“The principle beneficiaries of this proposed legislation will be abortion facilities and those doctors who perform abortions, whose incomes will be assured by isolating their patients from any influence which may discourage them from going through with the procedure. By attempting to choke off sidewalk counseling, women’s choices are being narrowed, and a mockery is being made of the notion of informed consent.”

“That lawmakers would actually contemplate expanding this radical measure is a frightening example of an extremist ideology which would sacrifice, for the sake of its own agenda, long established rights and protections found in both the United States and Massachusetts Constitutions.”



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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS LAW

At a public hearing today in the Massachusetts State House, the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts offered testimony in support of Senate Bill 321, AN ACT REGARDING PARENTAL NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT, which is an updated and more comprehensive version of the Commonwealth's Parents' Rights law. The hearing was held before the Legislature's Joint Committee on Education.

The Catholic Action League said the legislation is "necessary because of the aggressive and ongoing attempts by teachers and school administrators to evade the spirit, if not the letter, of the current law."

In his testimony, League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Parents are the primary educators of their children. Free and civilized societies recognize the rights of the family, which are inalienable, as antecedent and superior to the claims of the state in the education of children. This principle was upheld by the Massachusetts Legislature when it enacted the original parents' rights law more than a decade ago."

"This bill will broaden the parental rights and religious freedom protections contained in the existing law, by including within its purview school assemblies and classroom surveys, not presently deemed part of a human sexuality curriculum. It further strengthens parental authority by converting the "opt-out" provisions of the statute to an "opt-in" procedure, and it provides a reasonable accommodation to those teachers and school employees who, due to their sincerely held moral and religious beliefs, do not wish to participate in such programs."

"When the state, through the agency of the public schools, tells a Catholic child that sexual activity before marriage is to be expected, that the use of contraceptives is socially responsible, or that homosexual and transgendered behaviors are normative and ought to be affirmed, then it is effectively telling that child to disregard the moral teachings of his or her religion and to ignore the moral convictions and religious beliefs of his or her parents. This is not only subversive of the authority of parents and the autonomy of the family, but impairs the religious freedom guarantees found in the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and in Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution, which have always been understood to include the right of parents to impart their religious principles to their children unimpeded by the state."



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NEWS RELEASE

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS LEGISLATURE FOR KILLING MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today condemned the Massachusetts Legislature for refusing to allow the citizens of the Commonwealth to vote on a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The initiative petition proposing the amendment received the signatures of more than 170,000 voters, the largest number in the history of the state. The votes of at least one quarter of two successive legislatures were required to place the measure on the ballot for ratification by the people. On January 2nd, sixty two representatives and senators from the outgoing 2005-2007 legislature voted to move the amendment forward. In today's Constitutional Convention, the amendment failed when only forty five members of the General Court voted in favor of it.

The Catholic Action League called today's vote "a wretched example of the cowardice and corruption of the Massachusetts Legislature, the power of money, the scorn Bay State elites have for both the democratic process and traditional values, and, of course, the totalitarian instincts and utilitarian morality of a homosexual movement that has nothing but contempt for the beliefs of everyone but themselves."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Today, the Massachusetts Legislature trashed the signatures of 170,000 citizens and disenfranchised nearly 4 million voters by refusing to place the marriage amendment on the ballot. Anyone above the age of reason understands that the switch of 12 legislative votes in the last few days had nothing to do with principles, and everything to do with the paychecks, pensions and per diems of salaried careerists who were pressured, threatened, enticed, intimidated and cajoled by everyone from the Governor to the legislative leadership to the congressional delegation and to national figures of Democratic Party politics. In a parliamentary system, a matter of conscience would be a 'free vote', without instruction from party whips. This afternoon's vote on Beacon Hill was the most carefully managed in memory."

"Nor should we overlook months of lobbying by well-funded homosexual organizations supported by big business, organized labor, and much of the media. It is remarkable that forty five legislators had the courage to withstand this. Supporters of traditional marriage ought to resume an initiative petition drive, but must first punish the legislators who betrayed them come the 2008 elections."

Why The Massachusetts State House Capitulated

28/JUN/2007

By C. JOSEPH DOYLE

BOSTON — The recent vote of the Massachusetts state legislature to kill a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting same- gender marriage in the commonwealth of Massachusetts revealed an unprecedented amount of arm- twisting, bribery, and intimidation by the legislature's own leadership, by powerful members of the congressional delegation, such as Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John Kerry, and Cong. Barney Frank, and by prominent figures in national Democratic Party politics, such as U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Party Chairman Dr. Howard Dean, and, reportedly, U. S. Senator and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

This political pressure did not occur in a vacuum. It followed nearly a year of intense lobbying by homosexual and left- wing groups who spent well over a million dollars and who were supported by big business, big banking, organized labor, the media, the public education establishment, higher education, and most mainline Protestant and Jewish denominations.

As a result of this organized intimidation, 12 legislators were suborned into changing their vote in the last few days before the constitutional convention, where the 200 members of the Massachusetts House and Senate come together in a joint session.

Despite denials by the supporters of same-sex "marriage," that no jobs were offered in return for votes, a corrupt practice under chapter 268 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, homosexual lobbyist Arline Isaacson, who doubles as legislative agent for powerful state teachers' union, told

The Boston Globe that some legislators were "upping the ante" when it came to bargaining for their votes.

This vote represents another milestone in the collapse of Catholic political power in Massachusetts, where Catholics are, for the first time in more than 100 years, a minority. When John F. Kennedy was elected president in 1960, Catholics were a majority in three states — Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island — and were a majority in all eight southern New England dioceses and archdioceses.

Today, Catholics are still a majority in Rhode Island, but have fallen to just a little over 40% in Connecticut, and depending on how one counts, somewhere between 44% and 46% in Massachusetts.

But it is not just declining Catholic numbers, but rather the wholesale apostasy of the political class from any Catholic loyalty and conviction.

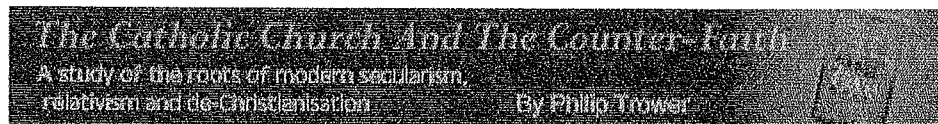
The vote of the legislature, moreover, trashed the signatures of 170,000 citizens and disenfranchised nearly 4 million voters from determining the definition of the bedrock institution of our social order — the largest number of signatures collected in a petition drive in state history.

Rejecting the political desires of so many people were the prominent Catholic elite in Massachusetts politics.

Although the legislature remains two- thirds Catholic, 92% of state senators and 67% of Catholic state representatives voted against traditional marriage. Of the members of the Knights of Columbus in the legislature, 74% voted against traditional marriage, as did all members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians serving in the House or Senate.

Of Catholic college and university graduates, 76% voted against traditional marriage, as did the same percentage of Catholic secondary school graduates. Among Boston College grads in the legislature, nearly 70% voted against traditional marriage, as did twothirds of BC High grads, and over 80% of BC Law grads.

+++ (C. Joseph Doyle is executive director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts. Space considerations precluded us from printing all his observations in this week's issue; more of his commentary will appear in next week's *Wanderer*.)



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NEWS RELEASE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE REBUKES **CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL** **FOR FEATURING MAYOR MENINO**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today rebuked Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury for featuring Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino as a “special guest” at their 50th Anniversary Dinner to be held this evening at the Copley Marriott Hotel.

Mayor Menino, a proponent of legal abortion, domestic partner benefits, same-sex marriage, transgendered rights, and homosexual adoption, regularly leads Boston’s Gay Pride parade, but refuses to march in South Boston’s Saint Patrick’s Day parade.

The League called Menino’s prominent presence at the event “an appalling scandal which speaks to the lack of integrity in the leadership of Catholic Memorial, and the corruption in its parent religious order, the Congregation of the Christian Brothers.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “No one can be expected to take seriously Catholic opposition to abortion and same-gender marriage as long as Catholic institutions compromise themselves, and indeed prostitute themselves, by showcasing for fundraising purposes nominally Catholic politicians who openly repudiate core Catholic teachings about the sanctity of human life and the traditional character of marriage. The deplorable message which CM is sending to its students is that money is more important than Christian morality, political power trumps Catholic principles, public betrayal of the Catholic faith is acceptable, and those who commit such betrayals are respectable if their careers are crowned with success in secular society.”

“Those who made the decision at CM to invite Tom Menino either don’t believe in the moral teaching of the Catholic religion, or find it so unimportant that they are willing to sacrifice it for financial gain. Catholic Memorial should apologize to its students, their parents, its alumni, and the Catholic community.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle is an alumnus of Catholic Memorial High School.



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE PRAISES PARISH PRIEST FOR EXPELLING MOVIE CREW

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today commended Rev. Antonio Nardoiani, OFM/IC, Pastor of St. Leonard of Port Maurice Church in Boston's predominantly Italian-American North End, for evicting the cast and crew of the new Dane Cook/Kate Hudson movie *Bachelor No. 2* from parish property. The production crew had rented the church parking lot and the parish hall, which they were using as a commissary.

Father Nardoiani returned their check and ordered them to vacate the premises after he learned that the film makers had converted a local pizzeria on Hanover Street, Galleria Umberto's, into the "Cheesus Crust", complete with a cross and an image of Our Lord from Leonardo Da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, distributing pizza to His apostles.

The Catholic Action League called the pastor's decision "principled, courageous and entirely warranted."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Hollywood's malign obsession with demeaning and trivializing the Holy Name of Our Saviour has again been exposed. This time, however, it was compounded by the brazen effrontery of using a Catholic parish while mocking the Catholic Faith. The Second Commandment of the Decalogue forbids taking the name of God in vain. Father Nardoiani's summary eviction of these churlish offenders for their grotesque act of disrespect to the Second Person of the Holy Trinity was exactly the right thing to do."

"The Hollywood film industry would never dare to inflict such boorish blasphemies or bigoted banalities on Muslims. Christians, however, particularly Roman Catholics, remain fair game. Perhaps, some day, a film maker will produce a documentary on why Hollywood suffers from a compulsion to gratuitously insult Catholics. As for *Bachelor No. 2*, Catholic movie-goers should refuse to subsidize sacrilege."



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NEWS RELEASE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE HAILS BISHOP'S RESPONSE TO SCANDAL AT HOLY CROSS

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today commended the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, for his unambiguous opposition to the forthcoming 2007 Teen Pregnancy Institute, to be held at the College of Holy Cross on October 24th. This conference, sponsored by the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, will discuss various methods of birth control, and will include three workshops conducted by Planned Parenthood and one workshop conducted by NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

In a statement released yesterday, Bishop McManus said the Church's teaching on respect for life is "manifestly clear", and "beyond modification and compromise". He warned Holy Cross that it was in danger of losing its Catholic identity, and called upon its President, Rev. Michael McFarland, to revoke the invitation to the Alliance.

The Catholic Action League called the bishop's response "an act of courage and an exercise in leadership which other members of the Catholic hierarchy in America would do well to emulate."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "No one can be expected to take seriously Catholic opposition to abortion and contraception when a Jesuit college provides a forum for Planned Parenthood -- an organization responsible for more than a quarter of a million abortions each year in this country -- and the National Abortion Rights Action League, which has a history of framing the abortion debate as an attempt by the Catholic Church to impose its archaic morality on pluralist America. The deplorable decision by the college administration to permit this conference to go forward is a betrayal of Catholic principles, an implicit repudiation of the Church's moral teaching, and an insult to faithful pro-life Catholics. Holy Cross is also sending an appalling message to its own students of official indifference to the destruction of innocent human life by surgical abortion and abortifacient contraception."

"When Catholic college administrators and religious superiors not only fail to defend the right to life, but actually collaborate with the purveyors of death, then it is necessary for the bishop to intervene, and Bishop McManus has done so appropriately and forthrightly. It remains to be seen what action the Bishop will decide upon if Holy Cross defies his request, and what course Sean Cardinal O'Malley will take. One of the member agencies of the Alliance is Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston, which is slated to conduct one of the workshops at the conference. It seems that the leadership of the Catholic Church in Massachusetts is in for a time of testing."



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS HOLY CROSS FOR HOSTING PLANNED PARENTHOOD, NARAL

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today condemned the College of the Holy Cross for hosting the 2007 Teen Pregnancy Institute, sponsored by the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, which includes three workshops conducted by Planned Parenthood and one workshop conducted by NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. The Bishop of Worcester, Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, warned that Holy Cross was in danger of losing its Catholic identity and called upon the college president, Reverend Michael McFarland, to revoke the invitation to the Alliance for the conference. McFarland refused, allowing the conference to be held today.

The Catholic Action League called McFarland's decision "an appalling act of infidelity and a shameful betrayal of Catholic principles, which speaks to the moral and doctrinal corruption of the college administration and that of its parent religious order, the Society of Jesus".

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "To allow this conference to go forward is an implicit repudiation of Church teaching on the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life, and is a grave scandal which makes a mockery of Catholic opposition to abortion and contraception. It is also a callous insult to faithful pro-life Catholics struggling to protect the unborn."

"No one who sincerely believes in the inviolate character of human life would provide a forum for Planned Parenthood, an organization responsible for destroying the lives of more than 250,000 pre-born children in this country each year. In doing so, Holy Cross has discarded its Catholic identity and abandoned any pretense of religious or intellectual integrity. Needless to say, this also reveals a coldhearted disloyalty to the founders of the Jesuit order, the founders of Holy Cross, and the Faith, the Church, and the Catholic community which the college was established to serve."

"Such treachery should not go unpunished. Bishop McManus should sanction the principal malefactor in this disgraceful episode, Reverend Michael McFarland, by suspending his faculties and ordering him to leave the Diocese of Worcester. For the bishop to merely withdraw the college's designation as a Catholic institution would not only be insufficient, but would only serve to confirm the control of those who have dispossessed orthodox Catholics of this once faithful Catholic institution."



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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS **BUFFER ZONE LAW**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today criticized Governor Deval Patrick for signing into law a bill which more than quintuples the size of so-called buffer zones around Bay State abortion clinics. The legislation passed the State Senate by a voice vote on October 23rd, and was approved by the House of Representatives on November 1st by a margin of 122 to 28.

The Catholic Action League called the expansion of the buffer zone law "a chilling defeat for the First Amendment, and a troubling victory for special interest and single issue politics."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "It is a measure of the extremism of abortion proponents that they would substantially burden the exercise of such long established American liberties as freedom of speech and freedom of assembly --- rights guaranteed by both the U.S. and Massachusetts Constitutions --- in order to obtain the triumph of their ideology. This law will do nothing to enhance public safety, and everything to advance the financial interests of Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics. It will not prevent a single act of violence, but will inhibit lawful, non-violent expressive activity, including peaceful prayer on public sidewalks."

"The real purpose behind this legislation is the ambition of abortion clinic operators to choke off and eventually suppress sidewalk counseling, which offers distressed women entering their clinics positive alternatives to abortion. After clinic owners and the doctors who perform abortions, the principal beneficiaries of this legislation will be the boyfriends of pregnant women seeking to evade the responsibilities of fatherhood. Now, in the name of preventing harassment, the only communication possible between pro-lifers and the unfortunate women entering these clinics will be raised voices at a distance of thirty five feet."

The Catholic Action League was one of the organizations which filed an *amicus curiae* brief before the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth prior to its advisory opinion on the constitutionality of the original buffer zone law.