



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

January 12, 2017

Board of Advisors

Hadley Arkes
Brent Bozell
Gerard Bradley
Linda Chavez
Robert Destro
Keith Fournier
Laura Garcia
Robert George
Mary Ann Glendon
Dolores Grier
Alan Keyes
Stephen Krason
Lawrence Kudlow
Robert Lockwood
Thomas Monaghan
Michael Novak
Kate O'Beirne
Thomas Reeves
Patrick Riley
Robert Royal
Ronald Rychlak
Russell Shaw
William Simon, Jr.
Joseph Varacalli
Paul Vitz
George Weigel

Chairman

Board of Directors
Rev. Philip Eichner

Board of Directors

Raymond Arroyo
Candace de Russy
Richard Kerins
Walter Knysz, Jr.
Leonard Oswald
Francis Schroeder
John Spellman
Joe Thompson
Theodore Vargas
Richard Walawender

Vice President

Bernadette Brady

President

William Donohue

Mr. Lewis Reed
President of the Board of Aldermen
City Hall, 1200 Market Street, Room 230
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Alderman Reed:

As president of the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, I would like to convey my thoughts on Board Bill 203.

The American people are divided on abortion, but there is a clear consensus that the nation does not want *more* abortion rights. In fact, most Americans oppose the current practice of allowing abortion-on-demand and for any reason whatsoever.

Bill 203 goes in just the opposite direction: it would add "pregnancy and reproductive health decisions as protected classes" to Ordinance 67119. There is no moral, or legal, imperative to expand abortion rights in 2017.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson has pointedly said that this bill could turn St. Louis into "a sanctuary city for abortion." I share his concerns. That would be a travesty of justice.

Government should not be in the business of granting additional protections to those engaged in abortion services. Furthermore, it has no constitutional right to encroach on the religious liberties of Catholic institutions, or those of any other religion. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President