



A Quality Education...or Not?

Legislation that WILL impact lives in Tennessee.

Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act | TNCPPC Supports Bill SB380 / HB336

Voucher/Parental Choice bill - As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship. It will provide scholarships to eligible children across the state who are on the free and reduced lunch program. It would be piloted in Knox, Davidson Hamilton, and Shelby Counties.

UPDATE: This bill failed in the Senate Education Committee.

[LEARN MORE about this bill.](#)

Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program | TNCPPC Supports Bill HB126 / SB161

School Vouchers - As introduced, enacts the "Opportunity Scholarship Pilot Program." This pilot program applies to only Shelby County. If successful, it would pave the way for School Choice in TN—allowing parents to choose the right school for their child regardless of zip code or financial situation.

UPDATE: A new twist, same dance. Alterations in this six-year-old bill did not move it along. There were no hang-ups in committees; put on hold by the sponsors. As in the past, votes were looking weak in the House. We will continue to work for passage next year.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Requires the Department of Safety to print the language "NON-U.S. CITIZEN" or "ALIEN" on driver licenses | TNCPPC is Watching SB272 / HB222

Driver Licenses - As introduced, requires the department of safety to print the language "NON-U.S. CITIZEN" or "ALIEN" on driver licenses, permits, or other forms of identification issued or renewed for a temporary period to persons who are not United States citizens and not lawful permanent residents of the United States.

UPDATE: This bill was rolled over to next year. It is unnecessary; there is already a notation on drivers license.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Prohibits the death penalty for defendants with severe mental illness | TNCPPC Supports SB378 / HB345

Criminal Offenses - As introduced, prohibits the death penalty as a punishment for defendants suffering from severe mental illness at the time of the offense.

UPDATE: Sent to summer study committee; once the members are named, and the meetings begin, we will report to you. Hopefully, the bill will be back on track next year.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Declares that human life begins with fertilization, cloning | TNCPPC is Watching HB895 / SB754

Statutes and Codification - As introduced, declares that human life begins with fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent, at which time all legal and constitutional attributes and privileges of personhood attach.

UPDATE: The sponsors introduce this bill but never took it through the committee system.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Requires employers to make accommodation for pregnant employee | TNCPPC is Watching SB1029 / HB834

Employees/Employers - As introduced, requires certain employers to make a reasonable accommodation for any pregnant employee upon request; authorizes the employer to require medical documentation for the accommodation; requires the employer to provide notice of this employee's right.

UPDATE: The sponsors didn't run the bill.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Raises minimum wage for tipped employees | TNCPPC is Watching SB1095 / HB129

Salaries and Benefits - As introduced, raises the minimum wage paid to tipped employees from \$2.13 to \$2.50 per hour; authorizes an employer to take a tip credit toward its minimum wage obligations up to the amount permitted by federal law.

UPDATE: Several bills were introduced to raise hourly wages—non passed.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Welfare – Authorizes photo identification electronic benefit card / creates offense of trafficking in EBT cards | TNCPPC is Watching SB 411 / HB 1220

Welfare - As introduced, authorizes a voluntary photo identification electronic benefits card (EBT) program for the food stamp program; creates offense of trafficking in EBT cards.

UPDATE: Bill wasn't heard in committee; rolled over to next year.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Makes licensed clinical social workers exempt from subpoena to trial | TNCPPC Supports SB041 / HB003

Civil Procedure - As introduced, makes licensed clinical social workers exempt from subpoena to trial but subject to subpoena to a deposition.

UPDATE: The bill passed the House Ayes 85, Nays 3. The Senate is holding the bill in committee to be heard next year.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Enables the state to provide medical assistance to the existing TennCare II waiver population and persons with low incomes | TNCPPC Supports SB118 / HB069

TennCare - As introduced, directs the commissioner of finance and administration to submit a waiver request to the federal centers for medicare and Medicaid services to enable the state to provide medical assistance to the existing TennCare II waiver population and persons with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty line by means of a block grant of federal funds.

UPDATE: Unfortunately, the bill was put on hold until next year. Sen. Briggs worked very hard on this issue, and we hope it will come back up next year.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Substance abuse treatment program for inmates housed in the jail | TNCPPC Supports HB159 / SB129

Jails/Local Lock-ups - As introduced, permits the sheriff or chief administrator of a jail to contract with a substance abuse treatment program to provide services to inmates.

UPDATE: This bill wasn't heard in committee; maybe next session. It is a permissive bill encouraging local jails to provide—at their expense—drug treatment for inmates. Successful completion would reduce the sentence.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Determining student eligibility for in-state tuition | TNCPPC Supports HB660 / SB635

Higher Education – Authorizes public institution of higher education to determine student eligibility for in-state tuition. This is a permissive bill.

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate committees and will be on the Senate floor calendar next year. The House side didn't run the bill through the committees.

[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Exemption from out-of-state tuition for certain students | TNCPPC Supports HB863 / SB1014

Education - As introduced, exempts certain students from payment of out-of-state tuition at state institutions of higher education. This would mandate the in-state tuition for students who were brought to America as a young child.

UPDATE: This bill failed in the House Education Committee. The sponsors will have to reintroduce it as a new bill in both the Senate and House and begin going through the committees.

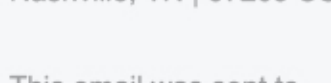
[LEARN MORE about this bill](#)

Jennifer Murphy, Executive Director | JMurphy@tncppc.org | p 615.356.8184

Tennessee Catholic Public Policy Commission gives witness to Gospel values in public affairs and government, engages and informs the Catholic Community on crucial social issues, and encourages and facilitates advocacy and participation in the Tennessee Legislative process. www.tncppc.org

Catholic Advocacy Network / There is strength in numbers; be a part. Click and join ranks with other Catholics who advocate social reform and participate in the Tennessee Legislative process. [contact information here](#)

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

128 Allendale
Nashville, TN | 37205 US

This email was sent to
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list