

March 3, 2018



## Request to Execute 8 Prisoners.

**BREAKING NEWS:** Attorney General of TN asked the TN Supreme Court to schedule 8 executions, to be carried out before June—the first in nearly ten years.

**Pope John Paul II taught us** that inflicting the penalty of death is cruel and unnecessary. The antidote to violence is not more violence. As a part of our pro-life commitment, we encourage solutions to violent crime that reflect the dignity of the human person, urging our nation to abandon the use of capital punishment.

**Executing the Innocent:** On four different occasions, TN sentenced four wrongfully convicted individuals to death row. To date, over 160 people from across the country have been released from death row when evidence of their innocence emerged.

**Raise your voice and be heard.** Sign this petition today to urge Tennessee not to resume executions in the state.

[Sign the petition](#)

## UPDATE on IMPORTANT Legislation

### Severe Mental Illness / Death Penalty

[SB0378](#) | [HB0345](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This legislation eliminates the death penalty for defendants with severe mental illness AND would enable TN to redirect millions of dollars spent in litigation to resources that provide greater access to mental health treatment.

Senate Judiciary Committee meets Tuesday and Wednesday NEXT WEEK—it is going to be a close call.

### Protecting identity of human trafficking victims

[SB1656](#) | [HB1849](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This bill classifies as confidential the records of human trafficking service providers unless the person to whom the records pertain consents to release the information or a court orders the release.

This bill will be on the Senate floor in two weeks; it should pass.

### TennCare Accountability | *Reasonable Work*

#### *Requirements for Capable Adult Enrollees*

[HB1551](#) | [SB1728](#) **TNCPPC OPPOSES**

This bill would amend existing TennCare II guidelines to impose reasonable work requirements upon capable, working-age, low-income adult enrollees without dependent children under the age of six.

TNCPPC supports assisting low-income families to become healthy and self-sufficient. However, we DO NOT SUPPORT imposing arbitrary work requirements. Besides, the Department of Human Services is already doing this; NOT the best way to spend state or federal funds.

### Responding quickly to child abuse or neglect

[SB1887](#) | [HB 2193](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This bill would prohibit the Department of Children's Services from providing more than 24 hours notice when responding to a report of child abuse or neglect.

This bill will be heard on March 7 by the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

### NO state funds will be used to promote or support elective abortions.

[HB2251](#) | [SB2148](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This bill establishes the policy of the state: no state funds will be used to promote or support elective abortions. The Commissioner of Finance and Administration is empowered to exclude a provider that does so from the TennCare program.

This bill will be heard March 7 in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

### Eliminating the Abuse of Public Assistance

[HB1822](#) | [SB2247](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This bill expands the Department of Human Services' (DHS) authority to conduct investigations and pursue judicial enforcement for fraud, theft, misappropriations, and any other abuse within the Food Assistance Program and any program administered by DoHS. This bill will be heard in both the House and Senate Committees next week.

TNCPPC met with DoHS Friday to discuss the bill.

### The Dreamers Tuition Bill | *There is hope*

[SB 2263](#) | [HB 2429](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This year's legislation HB2429 replaces the responsibility to determine the students' qualification for lower in-state tuition from educational institutions to the TN State Legislature. Stipulation: students must agree to file an application to legalize immigration status immediately upon eligibility.

The bill will be up in Senate Education Committee on March 7. This legislation lost by one vote last year.

### Criminal Offense: Promotion of Prostitution

[HB1930](#) | [SB 2517](#) **TNCPPC SUPPORTS**

This bill specifies that the offense of promoting prostitution is punishable as trafficking for a commercial sex act if the victim has an intellectual disability.

This bill should be on the Senate floor in two weeks and has the votes to pass.