



Christian Life

COMMISSION

CLC Legislative Priorities

2018-2019

Children and Families

Education

- Support increased state funding for high quality, full-day pre-kindergarten and early education options for all Texas children, particularly for at-risk, low-income families
- Support efforts to ensure an adequate & equitable funding of public education.
- Oppose efforts to reduce access to Texas higher education institutions for children who are long-term residents of Texas, but not yet US citizens or legal residents.

Foster Care

- Support funding for the Department of Child and Family Protective Services to help retain and attract caseworkers and evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs.
- Support efforts to improve outcomes for foster care youth while under state supervision, support efforts to move youth to permanency and increase supports for children aging out of state care.

The Stranger Among Us

- Support efforts to protect and care for victims of human trafficking, including funding for new and existing victims' service programs and end prosecution for non-violent crimes victims committed while trafficked.
- Support efforts to ensure prosecution and penalties for sex buyers and traffickers.
- Support border security and law enforcement policies consistent with humanitarian values.

- Oppose efforts to reduce access to IDs, birth certificates, education, health care for the U.S. born children of immigrants.
- Support efforts to ensure faith and nonprofit organizations can continue to minister and provide services to refugees that are placed in Texas.

Religious Liberty

- Support efforts to protect the rights of churches and religious nonprofits to make employment decisions, facility use determinations, and statements consistent with their religious convictions and beliefs.
- Support efforts by student groups at public higher education institutions to form groups to advocate ideas and require leaders of those groups adhere to those ideas.
- Support efforts to preserve the autonomy of private religious schools by rejecting public funds and regulatory efforts.

The Poor and the Vulnerable

Hunger and Poverty

- Support efforts to strengthen programs including SNAP that prevent hunger among high-need populations including children, the homeless, the elderly, and those that live in rural areas.

Gambling Expansion

- Oppose legislation for the introduction and expansion of predatory gambling enterprises including casinos, “racinos,” internet gambling, daily fantasy sports, slot machine-like devices, sweepstakes machines, and instant racing machines.
- Support legislation to abolish the Texas Lottery Commission.
- Support legislation to enhance regulation, prosecution, and penalties for illegal game rooms that operate eight-liners, sweepstake machines, or other illegal gambling activities.

Predatory Lending

- Support legislation to protect the right of local municipalities to enact ordinances stronger than state consumer protections.
- Support legislation to reduce the cost of small-dollar lending in Texas

Criminal Justice

- Support efforts to curb fees and limit court debt to percentage of a person's income
- Support efforts to assist the transition of ex-offenders back into society through the development and expansion of re-entry programs.
- Support efforts to move 17-year-olds into the juvenile justice system where they have greater access to rehabilitative services.
- Support efforts of Smart on Crime Texas

Human Life

- Oppose abortion.
- Support the elimination of all government funding for abortion providers.
- Support increased funding to abortion alternatives for expectant mothers.
- Support efforts to expand access to prenatal care and health services up to a year after birth for low-income mothers.
- Support efforts to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Texans.
- Support efforts to reduce racial disparity and the effects of systemic racism in the state's criminal justice, child welfare, mental health, education, and health systems.