



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

April 8, 2010

Dear Monsignor/Father:

The General Assembly is considering passage of House Bill 5473, which will remove the 30-year statute of limitation for the filing of sexual abuse claims concerning minors. The passage of this legislation could potentially have a devastating financial effect on the Catholic dioceses of Connecticut, including parish assets and those of other Catholic service organizations. We all realize the serious nature of these crimes. However, the passage of this law could result in claims that are 50, 60 or 70 years old, which are impossible to adequately defend in court.

I am joining with my fellow bishops in Connecticut in asking all pastors to place the attached insert into this weekend's parish bulletin. Please add the name and party affiliation for the State Senators and Representatives that represent the people of your parish at the bottom of the insert. The party affiliation will direct them to the correct phone number on the insert. If you do not have this information available, you can obtain it by visiting the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference website at www.ctcatholic.org. A copy of the bulletin insert, along with questions and answers on House Bill 5473, are also available on this website.

Your assistance on this critical matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford