



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

## PRESS RELEASE — *For Immediate Release*

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### **South Carolina Catholic Conference speaks out against the death penalty**

**South Carolina Catholic Conference director, Michael F. Aquilano, released the following statement regarding the S.C. House's passage of S.120:**

"The Catholic Conference is deeply disturbed by the House's passage of S. 120 — a bill which removes all state licensing processes and conditions for drugs intended for the use of capital punishment. This bill subjects individuals to receive unlicensed, untested and unauthorized chemicals. It is egregiously inhumane, and it perpetuates a culture of death and injustice.

"The death penalty is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the human person.

"Respect for life is, and must remain, unconditional. When the state, in our names and with our taxes, ends a human life — despite having non-lethal alternatives to prevent the recommission of crime — our society attempts to overcome violence with more violence. Vengeance is not a just solution.

"As Christians, we are called to be unconditionally in support of life. It is our responsibility to defend its inherent value. The Catholic Conference prays for a future where the inalienable right to life is protected for all people, from conception to natural death."

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#### **ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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