



## **PRESS RELEASE** — *For Immediate Release*

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### **Catholic Conference speaks on S.C. House vote for Fetal Heartbeat Act**

**South Carolina Catholic Conference director, Michael F. Acquilano, has released the following statement regarding the S.C. House's passage of S. 474: the Fetal Heartbeat Act:**

"Today is a win for life in the Palmetto State. We thank our pro-life representatives for standing strong to pass the Fetal Heartbeat Act and to protect unborn children in South Carolina.

"The Fetal Heartbeat Act is a constitutionally defensible bill that protects life upon the detection of a baby's heartbeat. We thank Gov. Henry McMaster for his leadership in calling this special session to resolve this crisis.

"Life is the preeminent issue in our state. Every human being — born and unborn — is made in the image and likeness of God; every person has inviolable dignity and the right to life.

"Society's first duty is to protect and support human life, from the moment of conception until natural death. Our laws must build a culture of life and protect the most vulnerable among us. The Catholic Church pledges its continued compassion and resources to help all mothers and babies in need of love and support in the Palmetto State.

"We call upon our state Senate to pass this life-saving legislation. South Carolina is a pro-life state. It is time for our laws to reflect it."

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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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