

# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

## 2012 Candidate Questionnaire Project



The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is the nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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### CANDIDATE RESPONSE

#### United States Senator



#### Marielena Stuart (REP)

**ABORTION FUNDING BAN:** Prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for elective abortions?

#### NO RESPONSE

**Candidate Comments:** *The foundation of my Senatorial campaign is based on the inviolability of all innocent human life – born and unborn. As U.S. Senator I will oppose the use of tax funds for abortion across the board without exception. I urge the FCCB to enlarge their limited focus on abortion insurance coverage to include a frontal and vigorous attack on all federal anti-life legislation most especially Title X domestic and foreign population control programs.*

**COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM:** Legislation that ensures the integrity of our borders, fosters family reunification and provides a path to citizenship for the undocumented who have lived in the United States for a number of years, and do not have a criminal record?

#### NO RESPONSE

**Candidate Comments:** *As a former political refugee from Communist Cuba I waited years to enter the United States legally—in spite of the torture, imprisonment and execution of my family members. Amnesty is not the answer. Amnesty simply rewards illegal behavior. The rule of law must be upheld. We cannot allow migratory movements to determine our immigration policies.*

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Reauthorizing the current provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that all public and nonpublic schoolchildren receive equitable services?

#### NO RESPONSE

**Candidate Comments:** *As a Catholic homeschooling parent, I believe that parents are the first and primary educators of their children. As such, they should be free to send their children to the school of their choice or to homeschool their children without being financially disenfranchised by restrictive federal educational policies. I believe in equal educational justice for all American families. Let the tax dollar for basic services follow the child in support of parents' educational decisions at the elementary and secondary school levels. I will lead in eliminating the Federal Department of Education— and allow the states to handle public education, for those that wish access to it.*

**MARRIAGE:** Defining marriage as the exclusive union of one man and one woman?

#### NO RESPONSE

**Candidate Comments:** *The marriage of a man and woman was instituted by God from the beginning as a means of perpetuating the human race. The traditional family of husband, wife, children and extended family members provides the best human environment for the upbringing of god-fearing and loyal citizens. As U.S. Senator I will initiate and support federal legislation directed at stabilizing and supporting marriage and family life and will oppose all anti-family legislation designed to undermine marriage and the family including opposition to polygamy in any form, and any attempt to redefine marriage to include homosexual partners.*

**POVERTY-FOCUSED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Maintaining and increasing funding for U.S. international humanitarian and development assistance to poor countries and communities?

### CANDIDATE RESPONSES

#### 2012 Election Candidates

U.S. Senator

U.S. Representative

Florida Senator

Florida Representative

### CANDIDATE COMMENT GUIDELINES

The Candidate Questionnaire Project (CQP) offers candidates the opportunity to comment on each question beyond "support" or "oppose". Comments per question are set at a maximum of 1000 characters (measured by the online counter). *These comments can only be viewed online and will not be included on parish bulletin inserts.*

Written comments provided by candidates must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Candidates must provide truthful and accurate comments;
- Comments should be relevant to the campaign, the candidate and the questions provided;
- Comments should be limited to the candidate's own position on an issue and not contain information or comments concerning political party platforms or platforms of other candidates;
- Inappropriate or foul language is not permitted.

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops reserves the right to remove from its Web site any comments that do not follow the guidelines listed above.

*Candidate positions on issues are gathered for informational purposes only and are not used for endorsement of any candidate or political party.*

**NO RESPONSE**

**Candidate Comments:** *The greatest crisis facing underdeveloped countries today is not material poverty, but the imposition of population control programs by the United Nations and its member nations-- including the United States. I will lead in eliminating all U.S funding of the United Nations and will vigorously promote expelling the United Nations from the United States. As U.S. Senator I will initiate and support forms of legitimate foreign assistance directed at increased food production and preservation, improved sanitation and clean water projects, expanded educational opportunities, true health care programs and other positive works designed to release demographic pressures and insure a better life for the people-- and eradicate the harmful presence of Sustainable Development (Agenda 21). At the same time, I will vigorously oppose all tax-funded population control programs by the Agency for International Development (USAID) including programs of abortion, abortifacients, sterilization, contraception and anti-baby propaganda. Again, I ask the FCCB to join with me in this important task.*

**PRIORITY FOR THE POOR:** Budget policies with adequate revenues to put a circle of protection around programs that serve poor and vulnerable people at home and abroad?

**NO RESPONSE**

**Candidate Comments:** *The poorest and most vulnerable of our kin today is the unborn child. Innocent human life in the womb is the subject of attack in almost every country of the world. Eugenic abortion directed at eliminating unborn children in the womb who are suspected of carrying a debilitating disorder is especially vicious because it places a price on the head of every human being who is already born and finds himself handicapped by age or ill health. It is impossible to talk about budget policies for the poor, without first protecting the right of the poor to even exist. I urge the FCCB to stand with me in opposing abortion and all-life prevention tax-funded programs at home and abroad in a universal campaign to insure the rights of the unborn.*

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** Allowing individuals and businesses, including religious organizations, to offer employee benefits and services to the public in accordance with their religious beliefs?

**NO RESPONSE**

**Candidate Comments:** *The term "religious freedom" (undefined by the FCCB in this survey) is a poor criteria on which to base public policy especially since "religious freedom" can easily be used to justify unjust and perverted actions, policies and programs. For example, "religious freedom" is currently being used to replace the "right to privacy" as a means of insuring open-ended abortion in line with the landmark Roe Vs Wade Supreme Court decision of 1973. The basis for all public policies should not rest on ambiguous catch phrases like "religious freedom," but rather on the Commandments of God and on the Natural Law which binds all men, for all times, and in all circumstances.*

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