



ACTION ALERT: SUPPORT EDUCATION TAX CREDITS!

Legislation that has been approved by the House of Delegates and is currently before the Senate of Virginia would establish income tax credits for businesses and individuals who donate to scholarship foundations. These foundations would, in turn, provide financial assistance to families of limited economic means who desire to send their children to nonpublic schools. If passed, **House Bill 599**, patroned by Delegate James Massie (R – Henrico County), would ensure that Catholic and other nonpublic schools are affordable for more children. By providing incentives for scholarship donations, the bill would also have a positive overall effect on enrollment in Catholic schools, and thus would have the potential to help with affordability for Catholic-school families in general.

The Virginia Catholic Conference – established by the state’s Catholic bishops to advance the legislative goals of their two dioceses – is lobbying the General Assembly to secure passage of **HB 599**. However, before the full Senate of Virginia is permitted to debate this bill, it must be approved by the Senate Committee on Finance.

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School is in the district of Senator Charles Colgan, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. To encourage him to support this bill, please call 804-698-7529 or e-mail district29@senate.virginia.gov as soon as possible and convey the following message or a personalized one:

“Please vote in favor of **HB 599** when it comes before the Senate Committee on Finance. This bill would help make nonpublic schools – such as St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School which my child attends – more affordable for more families. Thank you for considering my request.”

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To sign up for regular alerts on school-related and other issues of particular concern to Virginia’s Catholic bishops, please visit the Virginia Catholic Conference’s website (www.vacatholic.org), click “**Join The Network!**” and complete the short form provided. Your free membership will enable you to communicate directly with your legislators without looking up addresses or composing letters. Alerts include pre-drafted messages that you can send (“as is” or modified to suit your own style) to your elected representatives.