

8 Solons Urge Bishops To Push for Pro-Life Bills

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Eight members of Congress have addressed a letter to the American Roman Catholic bishops commending them for their "efforts and resolve to protect the rights of the unborn," referring to action taken by the bishops at their recent annual meeting here. Seven of the signers were Roman Catholics, one was a United Methodist.

The letter, whose chief signer is Rep. Angelo Roncallo (R-N.Y.), was addressed specifically to Bishop Warren L. Boudreaux of Beaumont, Texas, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Liaison with Clergy, Religious and Laity.

A copy was made available here by Richard Gallagher, president of the Human Life

Amendment Group, who states that he is the only registered "pro-life" lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

Referring to the numerous resolutions which have been introduced in the House of Representatives in the wake of the Supreme Court abortion decision last January, the congressmen note that "pro-life amendments are buried in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments, and in all likelihood will remain there unless a strong national effort is made to support the most reasonable and practical means available to dislodge an amendment, that is, to urge House members to sign the only pro-life discharge petition pending in Congress, the Hogan discharge petition."

"It is unlikely," the letter continues, "that all of the many pro-life ecumenical organizations working for the discharge petition will be successful without the support of the bishops in this combined effort."

"For these reasons, we strongly urge you as liaison chairman to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference to urge the bishops both collectively and individually to launch major campaigns at this time to urge members of the House of Representatives to sign the Hogan discharge petition."

The New York congressman and his seven colleagues said that signing the discharge petition is a "positive pro-life action that each House member can do and that most would do if they were encouraged to do so by responsible persons."

The Hogan discharge petition referred to was introduced a few months ago by Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), one of the signers of the letter and author of the first "pro-life" amendment — introduced following the Supreme Court decision — which would guarantee the right to life from the moment of conception.

His is the only pro-life discharge petition pending in Congress, and before his resolution can be brought out of the House Judiciary Committee and onto the House floor for a

vote, 218 members of Congress must sign the discharge petition.

The six other signers of the letter to the bishops are Reps. Tennyson Guyer (R-Ohio), James R. Grover, Jr. (R-N.Y.), William F. Walsh (R-N.Y.), William J. Keating (R-Ohio), Joseph J. Maraziti (R-N.J.), and Norman F. Lent (R-N.Y.).

MODEL CITIES PARTY

The Senior Citizens of Model Cities, Inc. will hold their annual Christmas Party at St. Francis Xavier Church Hall tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organ music will be provided by Walter Brown. Pick up points for transportation are at the Senior Citizen Center, 33 Hollister St.; Baden Street Settlement House, 25 Herman St.; and Genesee Settlement House, 10 Dake St.

FUNDS NEEDED

The Area Youth Ministry (AYM) has started a fund raising campaign. According to F. Daniel Caputo, executive director of the non-profit organization, the group needs to raise \$5,000. Caputo said that the New York State division for youth will match funds. For further information on AYM contact the organization headquarters at 1261 Dewey Ave., Rochester, 14613.

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