



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

Pulpit Announcement Weekend of April 18/19, 2009

Last month, Catholics across Connecticut joined with fellow citizens in sending a strong message to the State Legislature: religious liberty must never be violated. Your swift and decisive action brought down Senate Bill 1098, which was a direct attack on the Catholic Church. We thank you for your courage in speaking out.

We need you to speak out again. Now we are facing another attack on our religious liberty. It is very serious and must be stopped now.

The Judiciary Committee has just sent to the Connecticut State Senate Bill 899. This bill is intended to implement the decision of the Connecticut Supreme Court legalizing same sex marriage. As written, however, the bill fails to protect the First Amendment rights of individuals, religious organizations, and related societies.

Bill 899 is coming up for a vote very soon, possibly this week. We ask you to do two things: first, to read a brief letter inserted in today's bulletin explaining how this bill undermines our religious liberties; second, to contact your state senator and representative to ask them to vote "no" on Senate Bill 899 as a violation of religious freedom. A list of contact numbers is included in the bulletin.

Thank you for defending the freedom of religion in the Constitution State!