

SB 75 Statement (for posting on SDCC website)

Senate Bill No. 75

Our Position: Support

Brief Description:

The South Dakota Catholic Conference supports passage of SB 75, which modifies existing laws related to parental support for a child born out of wedlock. SB 75 provides that both the father and mother are jointly responsible for paying the expenses related to pregnancy or prenatal care for the child, labor and delivery, and postpartum recovery, including any medical complications that may occur. SB 75 provides under the child support laws that a parent may be compelled to pay these expenses related to pregnancy and childbirth.

South Dakota reporting laws on abortion include data on why women have chosen to have abortions. In 2021, before the *Dobbs* decision was handed down, 192 abortions occurred in South Dakota. 46 percent of women receiving abortions reported that they chose abortion because they could not afford the child. While there are multiple reasons that women seek abortions, economic factors are clearly significant. SB 75 is an incremental step to ensure that women experiencing pregnancy out of wedlock will receive the financial support they need to cover costs that arise from pregnancy and childbirth.

, which would limit the ability of students receiving alternative instruction (e.g., homeschooled students) to participate in school district activities such as athletics and fine arts.

SB 57 would reverse a key component of SB 177, a 2021 enactment supported by the South Dakota Catholic Conference that reformed the state's laws regulating alternative education. SB 177 allows students receiving alternative education to participate in activities sponsored by the public school district in which they reside, or in another non-residential school district that may be selected under the terms of South Dakota's "open enrollment" statute. SB 57 would deny the ability of alternative education students to participate in activities of a non-residential district through the open enrollment program. It would limit alternative education students to participate in activities only through their district of residence.

Access to interscholastic activities can be important for the formation and development of children. The Church teaches parents are the primary and principal educators of their children, and that they need and are entitled to the subsidiary help of civil society and other institutions in fulfilling this sacred duty. Parents of alternative education students pay taxes to support public schools in South Dakota, and their access to participate in school activities should not be unjustly restricted.

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