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Catholic Diocese of Boise

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD GREAT
NORTHWEST, HAWAII, ALASKA,
INDIANA, KENTUCKY**, on behalf of itself,
its staff, physicians and patients, and
CAITLIN GUSTAFSON, M.D., on behalf
of herself and her patients,

Petitioners,

vs.

STATE OF IDAHO,

Respondent.

SUPREME COURT DOCKET NO.
49615-2022

**DECLARATION OF PETER
CHRISTENSEN IN SUPPORT OF
PETITION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAR AS
AMICUS CURIAE BY ROMAN
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BOISE**

I, Most Reverent Peter F. Christensen, M.A., D.D., **HEREBY DECLARE AS
FOLLOWS:**

1. I am an individual and resident of the State of Idaho, over the age of eighteen, and have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, believing them all to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

2. I am the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise. I was ordained a Catholic priest on May 25, 1985. I was ordained as a bishop in the Roman Catholic Church on September

14, 2007. I was appointed Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise on November 4, 2014, and installed on December 17, 2014. I have personal knowledge and experience with the day-to-day operations, policies, and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise.

3. I am familiar with the legal, legislative, spiritual and pastoral issues involved in the above-captioned case.

4. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise was formed on August 26, 1893. It is an Idaho non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Idaho. As Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise, I am the supreme official with charge of the pastoral care of the Roman Catholic faithful that reside in the State of Idaho and who number approximately 209,172.

5. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise is the ecclesiastical entity of the Roman Catholic Church for the State of Idaho. The Petitioners in this action fund and/or operate abortion facilities within the boundaries of ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise has a vested interest in this matter – the dignity and sanctity of all human life, including life of the unborn.

6. The Roman Catholic Church has consistently condemned abortion - the direct and purposeful taking of the life of the unborn child. In principle, Catholic Christians believe that all life is sacred from conception until natural death, and the taking of innocent human life, whether born or unborn, is morally wrong. The Church teaches, “human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can in any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.” (“Donum Vitae,” 5).

7. The Roman Catholic Church regularly counsels, teaches, and ministers the foregoing interests among its faithful, and to the public at large.

8. The Roman Catholic Church is widely recognized for its compassion and caring with respect to the life of the human unborn.

9. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise participated in the legislative process that resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 1309 during the Second Regular Session of the 66th Legislature of the State of Idaho, 2022. The Diocese counseled and educated legislators regarding the same, and provided support during the legislative process to proponents of the bill.

10. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise keeps itself, as a religious institution, and its faithful, informed of legislative and judicial developments related to the sanctity of life, including matters related to unborn humans.


11. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise supports laws that recognize the sanctity of human life, including an unborn child's fundamental right to life.

12. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise is fully capable of aiding the Court on the legal issues involved in this case.

13. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise offers a valuable perspective and humbly submits that it has interest in this matter to appear as an amicus curiae in furtherance of the interests of justice.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of Idaho that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 11 day of April, 2022.


Most Rev. Peter F. Christensen
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on the following on this 11th day of April, 2022 by the following method:

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