



Catholic Conference
of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY

APRIL 26, 2018

Issues supported by the Catholic Conference of Illinois

Resolution on *Laudato Si'* (Care for our Common Home)

SR 1606 (Sen. Cunningham, D-Chicago)/HR 1010 (Rep. K. Burke, D-Oak Lawn)

"I [Pope Francis] wish to address every living person on this planet.... In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home." (Laudato Si' 3)

- SR 1606/HR 1010 recognize *Laudato Si'* as an important resource that all Illinoisans should read and reflect upon as policies are developed to address the environmental challenges we face in our state.
- *Laudato Si'* notes that solutions must take into account both nature and the person. These resolutions call upon legislators to work in a bipartisan manner to develop just policies on environmental issues that consider both our social structure and ecosystem.

Access to Affordable and Clean Water

House Bill 5044 (Rep. Unes, R-Pekin)/Senate Bill 3080 (Sen. Steans, D-Chicago)

"[A]ccess to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights." (Laudato Si' 30)

- The water crisis in Flint, Michigan, showed us that lead and other toxins are a serious danger to our water systems.
- A recent *Chicago Tribune* report found that of nearly 3,000 homes tested in Chicago, 70 percent had lead in their tap water.
- Under HB 5044/SB 3080, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would develop a program to help low-income individuals and families get access to affordable, clean water.
- The legislation also requires that within 1 year, every community water system must create a plan to remove all public and private lead-pipe service lines connecting to the water main within 10 years.

Voting Rights for All Illinois Citizens

House Bill 4469 (Rep. Stratton, D-Chicago)

"Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." (Laudato Si' 139)

- Illinois' Future Energy Job Act targets former inmates to fill new jobs in the alternative energy industry.
- In protecting the rights of these former inmates, this bill plays a role in an integrated approach to issues affecting our common home.
- HB 4469 ensures that eligible voters who happen to be held in a county jail during an election are given the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot, and in Cook County, are provided with a temporary polling place.
- The legislation also requires the Department of Corrections to give inmates released from state prisons information on re-instating their voting rights.