



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND  
IN OREGON

Office of the Archbishop

April 19, 2017

Dear Brother Priests,

*Praised be Jesus Christ!*

Your attention and support are needed to get an important initiative on the ballot. The **Stop Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act** is a petition to stop taxpayer-funded abortion in the state of Oregon. The initiative is intended for the next general election ballot, and it would prohibit use of state funds from being spent on elective abortions. Through the Oregon Health Plan, Oregon taxpayers fund 10 abortions every day.

As followers of Christ, we desire to stand up for the weak and most vulnerable among us. Abortion not only results in the death of a child, but also inflicts severe harm on the mother and father and all who are involved in it. Please join me in taking action. **The Archdiocese of Portland encourages all Catholics to sign the Stop Taxpayer Funding for Abortion petition** (Oregon Initiative Petition 1) so we can get this important initiative on the ballot. If passed, this constitutional amendment would save thousands of lives and spare mothers and families from the ensuing grief that always comes with the death of a child through abortion.

The organizers of the **Stop Taxpayer Funding for Abortion** initiative will be collecting signatures over the next several months. To qualify this measure for the 2018 general election ballot, we need to gather more than 117,000 signatures from Oregon voters.

As the archbishop, I ask all pastors and administrators to support signature-gathering efforts for this non-partisan petition to become a ballot initiative. To prepare for a successful petition drive, **please work with the organizers to gather signatures at your parish on two or more consecutive Sundays during the months of May and June.** We need every parish participating to succeed at gathering the necessary signatures. Your assistance is essential to the success of this initiative.

Thank you for your commitment to help place this vitally important issue on the ballot. We have great strength together, through Christ. For questions, and to request petition sheets for your parish, please visit: <https://stopthefunding.org> or contact Todd Cooper at the Oregon Catholic Conference: 503.416.3460 or [tcooper@archdpdx.org](mailto:tcooper@archdpdx.org).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

*From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2270