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A call to support the national postcard campaign to legislators to oppose FOCA or any pro-abortion measure

**Archbishop José H. Gomez & Bishop Oscar Cantú
January 30, 2009**

We are joining our fellow bishops across the nation in encouraging every Catholic in every parish in the Archdiocese of San Antonio to participate in a postcard campaign to oppose one of the greatest threats to innocent life since the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision 36 years ago. This initiative will inform our legislators in unmistakable terms that we call upon them to retain current pro-life laws and policies, oppose the federal funding and promotion of abortion, and reject the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) or any similar pro-abortion measure.

The people of the United States are facing a serious challenge to our deeply held religious beliefs in the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. The "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA), if it comes before the legislature and is passed, would establish abortion as a fundamental right in this land. FOCA would provide a legal platform upon which pro-abortion forces could lead an assault on any legislation that limits access to abortion, and rollback 36 years of progress made by the pro-life movement to protect the unborn. It could overturn more than 300 hard fought state and federal laws.

In the weeks to come parishioners will be asked to send a clear message to our legislators and our new president that we will not stand-by silently and watch this attack on innocent human life. FOCA, if passed, would be a perversion of the very words that make up its title. It would neither protect freedom nor choice.

We ask those who believe that a parent should have the right to participate in the medical and moral decision of their minor daughter who may be considering an abortion to join in the fight against FOCA.

We ask those who believe that hospitals, doctors, nurses and all healthcare providers should have the right to follow their conscience in refusing to participate in abortions without fear of legal or financial reprisals, to join your voice with ours in this fight to preserve religious freedom. FOCA could ultimately lead to the elimination of many Catholic hospitals and charities.

We ask those of you who object to having tax dollars used to support and promote abortion to let your legislators know that you do not want to be forced to fund this taking of innocent life.

If you oppose the rollback of the protection of the unborn by any legislative action or executive order, then we invite you to unite with us, whatever your religious affiliation, and participate in our postcard campaign for life. We urge everyone who cherishes life, the most fundamental of all rights, and believes that "no law" should be passed that prohibits the "free exercise" of our faith, to make your voice heard clearly that FOCA and any other threat to innocent life demeans the very spirit of this great country that is built on the right to "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D.
Archbishop of San Antonio

+ Oscar Cantú

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú, S.T.L.
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio