



www.CatholicVoiceNC.org

STATEMENT OF
BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE, CATHOLIC BISHOP OF RALEIGH
AND
BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS, CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE
ON THE
CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATE INITIATIVE

February 17, 2009

My name is Monsignor Michael Clay and I serve as legislative liaison and lobbyist for the two Catholic bishops of North Carolina, Bishop Michael Burbidge of Raleigh and Bishop Peter Jugis of Charlotte. On their behalf, I have been asked to read a statement from them regarding the Choose Life license plate initiative.

We are grateful for the opportunity today to publicly endorse the passage of House Bill 168, a bill that would permit a Choose Life specialty plate to be made available to the citizens of North Carolina. We speak this morning on behalf of hundreds of thousands of Catholics throughout the state of North Carolina who support our request that this bill be allowed a vote by the full legislature and endorse its passage.

In his farewell address to the Israelites in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses places a choice before his people about to enter the Promised Land and exhorts them to choose life so they may prosper (Dt. 30:19). We speak from a 2000 year Christian tradition that has taken these words of Moses to heart and has worked tirelessly to choose life as a consistent moral value. We speak on behalf of Catholics, in solidarity with other pro-life Christians and all people of good will who wish to honor a choice for life and to be given the opportunity to support pregnant women who need help in order to bring human life to birth.

The recipients of the proceeds from the sale of the Choose Life license plate will be those who visit local pregnancy care centers throughout our state searching for counsel and material resources. With limited financial resources available to them, these centers would benefit from the revenue they would receive, at no cost to the state, to assist women in their time of need. Surely no one would oppose assisting a needy pregnant woman who desires to bring her child to birth through funds raised from the sale of a license plate.

We appeal to Christians, especially the Catholics in our state, and all people of good will to contact their legislators and ask them to support this legislation and to allow it to be voted on by the full legislature. We have over 130 specialty plates in our state. Choosing to support human life by this additional plate is good for pregnant women and their unborn children and for our state.

We pledge our support in helping this bill become a reality in North Carolina.