

Ronald M. Johnson, Jr. Executive Director

## ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S SIGNING OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY BILL May 11, 2012

The Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference are grateful that Governor Jan Brewer has signed HB 2625 into law.

HB 2625 will be very helpful in protecting religious liberty for religiously affiliated employers who have an objection to abortion inducing drugs and contraceptives.

This new law will not preempt the HHS contraceptive mandate, if it is upheld. However, if it is not, religious freedom in Arizona will be better protected.

We also want to especially thank the bill's sponsor Representative Debbie Lesko, as well as Senator Nancy Barto, for their tremendous effort in shepherding HB 2625 through the legislative process and their unwavering support of religious liberty.

Most Rev. James S. Wall Bishop of Gallup

James S. Wall.

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted Bishop of Phoenix

+ Idrado A. Nivars

Thomas J. Olnited

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas Bishop of Tucson

+ Gerald n. Denim

Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. Gerald Dino Bishop of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic

Eparchy of Phoenix