



Arizona Catholic Conference

Diocese of Gallup • Diocese of Phoenix • Diocese of Tucson

VOTE NO ON 302: ENSURE OUR CHILDREN A POSITIVE START: A positive beginning to life is not a luxury; rather a positive beginning is the foundation for a fulfilling and productive life. Children who are loved, attended to and provided adequate resources at an early age thrive to become adults who contribute to strong families and a strong society.

In Arizona where we serve as Bishops, First Things First has played an important role in creating positive beginnings for thousands of children in our communities. We firmly believe that this beneficial program should be preserved and so urge voters to defeat Proposition 302.

Among the vital services provided the children in our State by this program are outreach and enrollment assistance for public health insurance, the distribution of thousands of emergency food boxes, the hiring of language and literacy coaches and the expansion of home-visit programs that support at-risk families, including pregnant women, making sure their children receive essential prenatal care.

Arizona's voters were right in 2006 when they set aside a new tobacco tax funding stream to care for our youngest children. This special funding should not be discontinued, nor should our children's potential be compromised. Please join us in opposing Prop 302.

Thank you on behalf of the Arizona Catholic Conference and on behalf of children all over our State.

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
Bishop of Tucson
P.O. Box 31
Tucson, Arizona 85702
520-838-2510

Most Rev. Thomas Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix
400 E. Monroe St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2336
602-354-2499

Most Rev. James Wall
Bishop of Gallup
P.O. Box 1338
Gallup, NM 87305
505-863-4406