



**ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
UPDATE (8/11/2011)**

AZ Court of Appeals Rules in Favor of Abortion Consent Act!!!

This morning the Arizona Court of Appeals provided great news by issuing an opinion upholding the Abortion Consent Act legislation passed a couple of years ago by the Arizona Legislature. Previously, much of this legislation had not been allowed to become law because of an injunction at the trial court.

We are very grateful that the Court of Appeals has reversed the trial court ruling and upheld provisions drafted by the Arizona Catholic Conference (ACC) with respect to rights of conscience for all healthcare providers, including pharmacists. Additionally, the ACC is very appreciative of the fact that the ruling upheld other items we supported including a requirement that a doctor provide informed consent to women in person at least 24 hours before an abortion, as well as other provisions including tighter parental consent requirements and a prohibition on people who are not doctors performing surgical abortions.

This litigation is not over and there remains a possibility that the case could be appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court. Nonetheless, the ACC is most grateful to the legislative sponsors of this legislation (Linda Gray and Nancy Barto) as well as to former Speaker Kirk Adams and current Speaker Andy Tobin for intervening in this case and Governor Brewer for signing this bill. Finally, a special note of thanks is also in order to organizations that have either represented the ACC in this litigation or otherwise worked with us on this matter including the Alliance Defense Fund, Center for Arizona Policy, and Bioethics Defense Fund.

Please feel free to forward this message and encourage the people you know to sign up for these free updates at www.azcatholicconference.org so that we can continue to expand our influence on matters of importance to the Catholic Church.