



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
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OFFICE OF CATHOLIC
CHARITIES & SOCIAL
CONCERNS

To: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, Administrators, Deacons and Parish Staff
From: John Watkins
Re: **Voice Your Opposition to the Attack on the Seal of Confession**
Date: June 28, 2019

We would like to invite Catholics from the Diocese of Sacramento to an important public hearing of the Senate Bill 360 on Tuesday, July 9 (9 am) at the California State Capitol, Room 126. Please see attached flyer for additional information.

Respectfully,

John Watkins
Director, Catholic Charities & Social Concerns
Diocese of Sacramento

Bulletin Announcement:

Voice Your Opposition to the Attack on the Seal of Confession. You are invited to attend the California Assembly Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 – 9:00 AM at the California State Capitol, Room 126. This meeting is open to all. Voice your opposition to Senate Bill 360.

The “seal of confession” is one of the most sacrosanct of Catholic beliefs and penitents rely on this unbreakable guarantee to freely confess and seek reconciliation with God. A priest who breaks the seal is automatically excommunicated (Canon 1388).

Yet now, the California Assembly Public Safety Committee is debating *SB 360*, a bill proposing to eliminate the penitential communication exemption for priests and employees of the Catholic Church when it comes to child sexual abuse.

SB 360 would undermine that, create confusion, deter counseling and discourage spiritual counseling without gaining any protection for children.

For more information about SB 360 and to take action, visit www.scd.org/keeptheseal.

Voice Your Opposition to the Attack on the Seal of Confession

**Attend the California Assembly
Public Safety Committee**

**July 9, 2019 – 9:00 AM
California State Capitol, Room 126**

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Yet now, the California Assembly Public Safety Committee is debating *SB 360 Mandated reporters: clergy* (Hill, D-San Mateo), a bill proposing to eliminate the penitential communication exemption for priests and employees of the Catholic Church when it comes to child sexual abuse.

Clergy and ministers are already mandated reporters of abuse when it comes to their administrative duties. That is right and important. It must continue unabated but inserting the government into the confessional is not going to help children.

The free exercise of religion has been recognized for centuries by nations around the world. SB 360 would undermine that, create confusion, deter counseling and discourage spiritual counseling without gaining any protection for children.

Visit www.cacatholic.org for more information and to send an email to your legislator in opposition to this attack on religious freedom.

#KeepTheSeal