



# Arizona Catholic Conference

Diocese of Gallup • Diocese of Phoenix • Diocese of Tucson

Ronald M. Johnson, Jr.  
Executive Director

## ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S VETO OF PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

We are deeply saddened with Governor Janet Napolitano's recent veto of HB 2769 relating to a state ban on partial birth abortions.

This legislation was an important pro-life measure pertaining to a horrific procedure to which most people are opposed. Even though there is a federal law banning partial birth abortions, a state ban would have allowed Arizona prosecutors to enforce such a ban without having to rely on the federal government.

Additionally, any potential interstate commerce issues that federal prosecutors must face in bringing forth these charges could have been avoided through the creation of a state partial birth abortion ban.

With the veto of HB 2769, the enforcement of partial birth abortions in Arizona is a matter of great uncertainty. Consequently, we are extremely disappointed that Governor Napolitano has rejected this important legislation.

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix  
Apostolic Administrator of Gallup

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas  
Bishop of Tucson