



ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
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Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference Statement on Religious Accommodations for Dying Patients Legislation Being Signed into Law

May 5, 2021

The Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference (ACC) are grateful that Governor Doug Ducey has signed into law an important bill (HB 2575) improving religious accommodations for dying patients in hospitals.

During the pandemic, too many people have died without the spiritual assistance or sacraments desired at the end of their lives. Even now, there remain places where clergy are not able to have in-person visits that are requested by dying patients.

We are extremely grateful for the dedicated health care providers who have done so much to assist people in need over the course of the pandemic. After all, patients typically need both great care for their bodies as well as for their souls.

This new law is simple legislation that will allow clergy of all faiths to have in-person visitation in hospitals when requested by a patient and it is safe for any other visitor. By providing this spiritual care, it will give great benefit and comfort to both dying patients and their families.

Accordingly, we deeply appreciate Representative Quang Nguyen for sponsoring HB 2575 and Governor Doug Ducey for signing it into law!

+ Edward J. Weisenburger

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Tucson

Thomas J. Olmsted

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted
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