



Knights of Columbus

COFFEE RUN COUNCIL, No. 6768

P. O. Box 595

Hockessin, Delaware 19707

An Open Letter from the Knights of Columbus Coffee Run Council # 6768 To Our Governor and Congressional Delegation

U.S. Senator Tom Carper, U.S. Senator Chris Coons,
U.S. Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester
Governor John Carney

A recent Wall Street Journal Editorial (01/03/19) reported that Senators Kamala Harris (D. California) and Mazie Hirono (D. Hawaii) viciously attacked a judicial nominee appointed to a Federal District Court in Nebraska. Senators Harris and Hirono said he should be disqualified from sitting on that court because he is a member of the Knights of Columbus which Sen. Hirono said holds "a number of extreme positions" particularly on same sex marriage and abortion.

Sen. Harris also criticized the Knights for being an "all-male society" and its leader Carl Anderson because of anti-abortion statements he has made. The WSJ editorial also quotes Sen. Diane Feinstein (D. California) criticizing a female Notre Dame Law Professor who had been nominated to a seat on a Federal Appeals Court, saying "the dogma lives loudly within you and that's of concern."

By condemning the Knights as holding extreme positions and by denigrating the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, these three Senators were attempting to ban members of the Knights from holding public office. And their questions show they wanted to establish a religious test for public office holders, in contravention of Constitutional guarantees.

While we are grateful for the efforts of Senator Ben Sasse (R. Nebraska) in securing an unanimously passed Senate Resolution saying it would be "unconstitutional" to consider membership in the Knights of Columbus a disqualifying criterion for public office, there was no debate and no recognition of a pattern of behavior.

The members of the Coffee Run Council of the Knights of Columbus in Hockessin, Delaware have chosen this forum to inform the members of our Congressional Delegation and our fellow citizens of our unequivocal support of the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including those on abortion and marriage.

Simultaneously, we wish to express our condemnation of the recently enacted New York law allowing an abortion of a baby up until the time of birth (which Delaware also allows) and not requiring medical treatment for babies born alive after a botched abortion. The enactment of the NY law and the consideration of similar legislation in other states amounts to the legalization of infanticide.

All members of the Knights throughout the United States have recently received a letter from Carl Anderson, the leader of the Knights, reminding our members of the U.S. constitution's prohibition of a religious test as a requirement for those who seek public office and the Constitution's guarantee of the free exercise of religion by all citizens of this country.

On behalf of our more than 200 members of the Knights of Columbus Coffee Run Council at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Hockessin, and mindful of the thousands of other Knights and thousands more Catholics of Delaware who are your constituents, we respectfully request that you, as our Member of U.S Congress/ U.S. Senate and Governor, condemn these vicious unwarranted attacks on the members of the Knights of Columbus and upon the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, especially regarding abortion and marriage in your Democratic Caucus and on the floor of the House and Senate and in the governance of the State of Delaware.

Coffee Run Council #6768, Knights of Columbus