

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
WOODBIDGE/BETHANY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 14, 2021



“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.”

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SECOND CHRONICLES

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects.

Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

L. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

L. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

P. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Question: How is the Christian's way of seeing things different from the culture's way of seeing?

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me. Separated from Thee let me never be. From the malignant enemy, defend me. At the hour of death, call me. And close to Thee bid me. That with Thy saints I may be praising Thee, forever and ever. Amen.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



The Sanctuary Lamp burns at the Center Road church in memory of Kevin Leary requested by Laura and Robert Benevento.

Parish Giving
March 7, 2021
Weekly: \$7,140.00

Second Collection this weekend is for
Catholic Relief Services

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, March 13, Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent
5:00 P.M. +Jozef Dekarz (Helen & Elizabeth Dekarz)

SUNDAY, March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

9:30 A.M. Deceased Members of the LoRicco Family (Family)

11:30 A.M. +Cynthia Schultz (husband, Charles)

MONDAY, March 15 Lenten Weekday

9:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

TUESDAY, March 16 Lenten Weekday

9:00 A.M. Birthday Remembrance for Carlota Ocampo (Family)

WEDNESDAY, March 17 St. Patrick, Bishop

9:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

THURSDAY, March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

9:00 A.M. No Mass

FRIDAY, March 19 St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 P.M. +Jozef Dekarz (Helen & Elizabeth Dekarz)

SATURDAY, March 20 Lenten Weekday

8:30 A.M. +Monsignor Gene Gianelli (Happy Birthday from the Saturday Morning Mass Group)

SATURDAY, March 20 Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:00 P.M. +Kevin Leary (daughter, Caroline, grandchildren Conor G. Leary, Caelan F. Watson, Liam D. Watson)

SUNDAY, March 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 A.M. +Sr. Rita Marie Dressell (Barbara Thompson)

9:30 A.M. +Rosemary A. Inman (Family)

11:30 A.M. +Anna & Antonio Galardi (Loving Family)

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



Church of Our Lady of the Assumption
81 Center Road, Woodbridge, CT. 06525
203-387-7119; Fax: 203-387-4281

Pastor: Reverend Christopher M. Ford
Deacon John "Jack" Mordecai, Deacon Victor Lembo
Deacon Mario DiRienzo, Senior Status

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Assumption is a Roman Catholic parish bound together by our faith in God and dedicated to the mission of following Jesus. We adhere to the teachings of Christ and his Church, and seek to encounter Him in the Sacraments, Scriptures and each other and to make ours an understanding, welcoming, and loving community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we strive to grow in our ministries, holiness, prayer, works of justice and proclaim to future generations the favors of God's steadfast love.

MASS SCHEDULE

*All Masses at Center Road
until further notice*

WEEKDAYS: 9:00 A.M.

(NO MASS ON THURSDAYS)

SATURDAY: 8:30 A.M.

**WEEKEND MASSES: SAT. VIGIL 5:00 P.M.,
8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M**

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 4:00 TO 4:45 P.M
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

Director of Music

Dr. Keith Smolinski

*Director of Adult Faith Formation
and Evangelization*

Sister Carolyn Severino, ASCJ
carsev2000@yahoo.com

Director of Faith Formation, Grades 1-10

Mrs. Debra Carpenter

oloareligiousdirector@gmail.com
203-397-5250 (attendance line only),

Main Office 203-389-9863

**Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

Parish Secretary

Anita Bellmore, 203-387-7119

parishsecretaryoloa@gmail.com

Parish Office:

Email: parishsecretaryoloa@gmail.com

Website: www.assumptionchurch.com

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday:

9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday: 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Office is closed on Thursdays

Parish Trustees: Dolph Luciani, Karen T. Cusick

Pastoral Parish Council President: Margaret Hamilton

Finance Council Convener: Dr. Bruce Marien

Please Pray for the Sick

Joe Moore, Joey Moore, Dan DiElsi, Ron Wyda, Elaine Sellings, Robert Scussel, Anthony DeLaurentis, John Reilly, Ed Rish, Marie Hartung, Valeria Asprelli, Al-lene Kelly, Dottie Malerba, Cornelious Smith, Jean Panico, Kevin Healy, Shirley Varmette, Chris Rish, Mary Pavlinko, David Massey, Rocco Campanelli, Lori Cleveland, Lori Warner, Robert Williams Jr., Danny Pagliaro, Mary Lyons, Wayne Teto, John O'Connell, Mary Tencza, Carole DaVia, Sandy Stone, Helen Havens, Linda Candella, Nicholas Philip Laudano, Kristin Marie D'Amico, John Mahor Sr., Sharon Mallico, Rebecca Rodriguez, Joe Carrano, Victor DeCarlo, Brett Bunnell, Suzette Bunnell, David Luciani, Margaret DeCarlo, Theresa DeLucia, Patricia Hunt, Mary Ellen Martino, Brian Kelley, Rosemary Festa, Pat DeLuca, Danielle Esposito, Connie DiCarlo, Fred Scalesse, Laura Luzzi. Dan Richo, Anna Adamovich, Sandra Overlock, Laura Luzzi, Pamela Willis, Nancy Ferrante Kezel, Mark Cefaloni, Donna Wyda, Patricia McDonnell, Janice Barone. Damian Horbury, Josh Thornberg, Frank DeLucia and Joseph Macolino.



Please remember in your prayers those serving in the Military: Pvt Nicholas Rickel, (Army), Dan Kelley (Army), Captain Alexander Carpenter (Army), Captain Patrick Carpenter Jr., 1st Lieutenant Benjamin Steven Santandreu (Army), SEA BEE Nicholas Listro, (Navy) Lieutenant John Philip Morrissey (Army) Lieutenant Matthew Hansen, Major Daniel Morrissey, (Air Force) Lieutenant Colonel Seth Krummrich (Army), Captain Samuel Hurchala, Lieutenant Sean Leary, Kevin Murphy, Danny Murphy, Pfc. J. Adams, Emily O'Hara, Jonathan Sanchez, Alice Mary, Eric Trivette, Meara O' Hara, Zachary Simpson, Jon Farwell, Sergeant Brian Streit, Ryan Rausch ,Mary O'Connell, Andrew Gnidula, and LCPL Glenn Warner.

LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
EVERY MONDAY EVENING
DURING LENT
6:00 TO 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAYS: 4:00 TO 4:45 P.M.
OR BY APPOINTMENT**



**HOLY HOURS
MONDAY MORNING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE 9:00 A.M. MASS**

**MONDAY EVENINGS
6:00 TO 7:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY TO
SIGN UP FOR THE MONDAY
EVENING HOLY HOUR**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 P.M.**



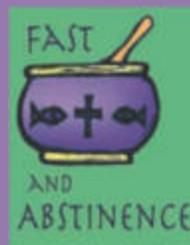
**DRIVE THROUGH
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
PRAY THE WAY OF THE CROSS
ON FOOT OR FROM YOUR CAR
CENTER ROAD PARKING LOT**

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH



The Consecration to St. Joseph involves a 33 day of preparation which entails approximately 15 minutes a day of spiritual reading and prayer. There is an optional weekly group meeting. The meeting will be held on Monday evenings beginning March 29. The consecration will take place on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1 at 7:00 P.M.

The consecration is especially appropriate for fathers, future fathers, and spiritual fathers. The book title is *Consecration to St. Joseph, the Wonder of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Donald Calloway and can be obtained by calling the parish office. The price of the book is \$15.



Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

SOLEMNITY OF THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSPEH MARCH 19 @7:00 P.M.



Pope Francis proclaims the Year of St. Joseph
With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation”

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

THE JITTER BUS IS COMING!

AN OUTDOOR SOCIAL WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING THE MASS

COFFEE (AND OTHER BEVERAGES), AND ZEPPOLES (INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED) FROM ROCCO’S BAKERY WILL BE SERVED IN THE CHURCH PORTICO AS WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH, THE PATRON OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD.

***NO 9:00 A.M. MASS
OR STATIONS OF THE CROSS
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 19***



WELCOME DEACON VICTOR LEMBO



We are happy to announce the appointment of Deacon Victor Lembo to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. Deacon Lembo was born in Derby, CT. and attended Ansonia Public Schools. He received an undergraduate degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a Masters Degree from the University of New Haven. Deacon Lembo is married (Kathleen) and the father of two daughters, Alysse and Kaitlin. He resides in Beacon Falls.

He has been active in church ministries since the age of 13 as an organist, cantor, lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, has served on the Pastoral Council, Liturgy/Environment, and RCIA. Deacon Lembo was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on June 13, 1992 by Archbishop Daniel Cronin. He has served in both Ansonia and Beacon Falls. He has 28 years experience in Engineering Administration at Sikorsky Aircraft and currently serves in Production Administration at ESPN.

Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive



The local Knights of Columbus council (Trinity Council #5467) is always looking for new recruits. Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are "practical" (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Membership is "FREE" until June 30th, 2021. It's easy to sign up on line. Go to:

kofc.org/joinus then enter the promo code MCGIVNEY2020.

If you have any questions feel free to contact: Mark Bednar at (808) 457-2821 or diveast@aol.com.

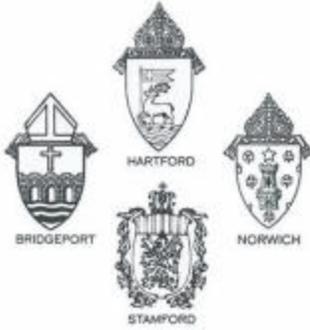
Reaching Out, Healing Together 2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal



The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2021 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's annual appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at: archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal.

No appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



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134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
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March 4, 2021

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***Statement from Connecticut Catholic Bishops
Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines***

People should feel free in good conscience to receive any of the vaccines currently available (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) for the sake of their own health and the common good, which requires the prompt vaccination of as many people as possible. This guidance is in accord with what has been stated by both the U.S. Conference of Bishops and the Holy See in Rome. At the same time the Church continues to advocate for the creation of vaccines that do not rely on cell lines derived, even remotely, from abortion.

+ Leonard P. Blair
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

+ Michael R. Cote
Most Reverend Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich

+ Frank J. Caggiano
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

+ P. Chomnycky, OSBM
Most Reverend P. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford

+ Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV
Most Reverend Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV
Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford

Mercy Friday



On **Friday, March 19, 2021**, we ask the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Hartford to observe a “Mercy Friday” by engaging in any of the **corporal and spiritual works of mercy** that might be possible at this time. Some might recognize that March 19th is also the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, an important day for both our universal and local Church. During this holy Year of Saint Joseph and especially in this archdiocese where we celebrate Saint Joseph as our patron, March 19th will be a day of solemnity and celebration, but it can also be a day for mercy. Recalling the blessed ways in which Saint Joseph supported the Holy Family, we should be drawn into action, and what better way to act in commemoration of this saint than to act with great mercy toward one another.

So during a time when one of the greatest acts of charity we can physically do is stay at home, we still find ourselves asking “what can I do?” The good news is, we can still “do” a lot. With the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as a guide, here’s a list of ten ideas for alleviating suffering and spreading the Gospel during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Visit the website for Catholic Apostolate Center: (catholicapostolatecenter.org/blog/what-can-i-do-living-the-works-of-mercy-during-covid-19)

Feed the hungry: We can still feed the hungry—whether they be first responders, people whose jobs are defined as essential, an isolated neighbor, or friend with a newborn. Send them a meal, cook one and make a contactless delivery, or give someone a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Feeding the hungry can also include donating to food pantries,

Clothe the naked: Stuck at home? How about using some of this time go through your closet and simplify? Donate extra clothing items to charity or buy items online to contribute to different ministries or homeless shelters.

Give alms: Giving alms could include donating money to a charitable organization that is working to alleviate poverty or suffering related to the pandemic.

Visit the sick and imprisoned – While we cannot physically visit the sick or imprisoned, we can still write and send them cards. Homemade cards and hand-written notes can go a long way in giving another a sense of hope or alleviating loneliness. For those with loved ones in nursing homes, use this time to call on the phone or try a video chat.

Instruct the ignorant: Some of us may be tackling home schooling for the first-time or teaching relatives the ins-and-outs of a Zoom call, but instructing the ignorant entails more than academics and technology. How are we showing our friends, family, or neighbors how to turn to God in times of distress? How can we model a life of prayer, faith, and perseverance during times of suffering? We can instruct the ignorant by witnessing to faith that perseveres and sharing the Gospel through relevant conversations on suffering and the faithfulness of God.

Counsel the doubtful: In times of hardship, many ask how a good and loving God can allow suffering. Many are experiencing a crisis of faith. Give friends and family a call and check in with loved ones.

Bear wrongs patiently: Many of us are facing incredibly stressful work and family life situations. Being stuck at home with family members or roommates can give us plenty of opportunities to practice patience with others. How can we take a deep breath and give others the benefit of the doubt right now? Even staying at home may feel like a wrong we are called to bear. Is there a virtue we are being called to grow in during this time? Ask God for the strength to take each day moment by moment with grace.-

Comfort the sorrowful: Many people are disheartened, grieving, and confused right now. We can comfort the sorrowful by checking in with friends and family, writing letters, making phone calls, sending gifts, or making them a meal or treat.

Pray for living and dead: Prayer is one of the most powerful actions we can take each day, but especially throughout this time of suffering. As Catholics, we know we are one body with many parts. Let us offer up prayers for those who are sick, suffering, without a job, or unable to see friends and family. Let us also remember the dead and dying in our prayers.

Forgive injuries When stuck at home, it’s easy to have more confrontation with those we are living with simply because we are seeing them and interacting more often. Let us pray to the Lord who said from the cross, “Father, forgive them,” to have the same spirit of compassion and forgiveness for our friends, neighbors, or leaders during this difficult time.

2021 Live Stations of the Cross



Saturday, March 27, 2021

10:00 am

Holy Land USA

60 Slocum Street

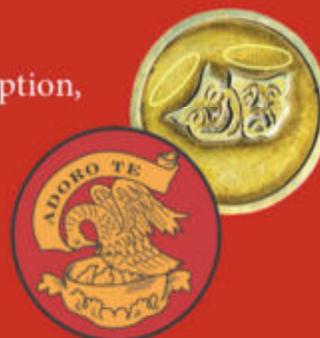
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redeemed the world.*

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Laetare Sunday

"Rejoice Sunday"

Laetare Sunday is the fourth **Sunday** in the season of Lent. Traditionally, this **Sunday** has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent.

"Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her; Rejoice with her in her joy, all you who mourn over her" Isaiah 66:10

"On this Sunday, we look with expectation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves as a Church during the Lenten season. By its anticipation of the joy of Easter, Laetare Sunday is meant to give us hope and encouragement as we slowly progress towards the Paschal Feast."

(from an article at: fathersforgood.org, an initiative of the Knights of Columbus)

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE

Politicians in Hartford are again considering assisted suicide legislation. The Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aid-in-dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The Committee has raised *House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients"*.

This inherently discriminatory practice, that risks death to patients through mistakes, coercion and abuse should never be legalized in our state. This practice targets vulnerable patient populations, such as those with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities, the economically disadvantaged, and those with chronic illnesses.

Please visit www.ctstopsuicide.org to read more about this issue and to sign the petition to urge legislators to vote "no" to this bill.



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