



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 18, 2022

Dear Ms. Eicher,

Thank you for your email and work for pre-born children in our state.

Our Catholic Conference executive director Brittany Vessely has kept the bishops of Colorado informed about the progress of Initiative 56. She conveyed to us that as early as your first conversation with her in summer 2021, she informed you that the Catholic Church in Colorado would not formally support or oppose Initiative 56. That position has not changed. However, she did tell us that the initiative committee members, such as yourself, would keep her updated on their progress, and she has subsequently shared those updates with us.

Jesus urged his disciples to be as “wise as serpents and as innocent as doves” (Mt. 10:16), and this applies to the legislative process. We must properly steward our resources and apply them where they will make the greatest impact for building a culture of life in Colorado. The recent loss of Proposition 115 and enactment of the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) have made it clear that there needs to be more education and groundwork to promote a culture of life in our state before any pro-life ballot proposal will be successful. In other states with a different electorate this could be a good strategy, but Colorado’s voters are not yet sufficiently pro-life to make a repeated ballot initiative strategy effective.

The position of the Colorado Catholic Conference does not diminish the Church’s work on life in public policy, education, and in crisis pregnancy and resource centers such as Marisol Health. Indeed, the Catholic Conference was one of the driving forces to unite the 21 pro-life groups in our state as Pro-Life Colorado coalition to battle future pro-abortion initiatives and advocate for policy that promotes sanctity of life.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the pro-life community in Colorado, and advocacy for the unborn.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel J. Aquila".

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.
Archbishop of Denver