



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Pastoral Center, 3940 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40213-1463
(502) 585-3291 | (502) 585-2466 (Fax) | archbishop@archlou.org

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

April 29, 2021

Dear Metro Council Member,

As the Louisville Metro Council again debates the question of a buffer zone at the EMW abortion clinic in Louisville, I am concerned that the passage of this law could improperly restrict the right of free expression.

I support the right of citizens to engage in peaceful witness about issues of justice, and our Church has a deep and cherished commitment to give voice to the child in the womb as well as assisting mothers in need to choose life for their children. I have always counseled that our pro-life efforts should be courageous, compassionate, and civil, and that pro-life advocacy at abortion clinics be conducted in a prayerful, peaceful, and respectful manner that includes a respect for just laws. The Church supports this pro-life advocacy with a variety of efforts through Catholic Charities of Louisville, parishes, and other agencies to provide tangible support to parents and their unborn children.

Over the years, hundreds of women have accepted the help of sidewalk counselors and have expressed gratitude for the chance to benefit from resources and assistance to help them choose life for their unborn children. Buffer zones could harm vulnerable women who need our help, and they would restrict the first amendment rights of sidewalk counselors offering a life-saving alternative to abortion. Therefore, I urge you to vote against the imposition of a buffer zone at the EMW Women's Surgical Center.

Thank you for your service to our community. You and your constituents are in my prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville