

**Pennsylvania Catholic Conference**  
U.S. Senate Questionnaire - General Election 2010

As part of an effort to educate citizens about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. The questions and answers provided here are for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

Do you support or oppose legislation to continue and expand current federal laws that provide educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on an equitable basis in comparison to the benefits received by public school students and teachers?

**TOOMEY** SUPPORT\*

*\* I have been a long term advocate for expanding parents' choice in schools through different funding mechanisms.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

**TOOMEY** DID NOT INDICATE\*

*\* I have been a long term supporter of PA's EITC program that is very similar.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

**TOOMEY** OPPOSE\*

*\* I support higher levels of legal immigration but oppose granting legal status to those who have broken our laws.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose legislation that would expedite the issuance of permanent resident visas for immediate family members, such as children, siblings, and spouses, of U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents?

**TOOMEY** DID NOT INDICATE\*

*\* I would support this in some cases, but it must be done in a way that respects the rule of law and protects the security of our country.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Will you support or oppose significant annual increases in poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

**TOOMEY** OPPOSE\*

*\* Our perilous budget situation does not allow for this.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND



Do you support or oppose legislation to increase aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and to provide adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

**TOOMEY** DID NOT INDICATE\*

*\* I support aid for refugees fleeing persecution, but I don't know if an increase in aid is necessary at this time.*

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose legislation that would amend the new federal health care law to clearly prohibit funding for abortions in federally qualified health clinics and coverage for abortions in high-risk insurance pools?

**TOOMEY** SUPPORT

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

**TOOMEY** SUPPORT

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

**TOOMEY** OPPOSE

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care providers and health care institutions?

**TOOMEY** SUPPORT

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

**TOOMEY** OPPOSE

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND

Do you support or oppose the overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

**TOOMEY** OPPOSE

**SESTAK** DID NOT RESPOND