Initiative 1698 (I-1698): The Heartbeat Initiative

**Summary:** I-1698 is a pro-life initiative requiring that an ultrasound be performed prior to an abortion. Abortions will prohibited if a fetal heartbeat is detected.

**Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) Support:** The bishops of Washington state support I-1698 and encourage parishioners to gather petition signatures. Signatures may be gathered at churches with the expressed approval of the pastor.

**Petition Deadline: June 24, 2020**
Organizers ask that petitions be postmarked and mailed to them by this date so that petitions can be counted and prepared for submission to the Secretary of State.

**To Obtain Petitions:** Petitions may be obtained from Carolyn Crain of the Heartbeat Committee, hazel.x2@comcast.net or 503-984-5659. If you have any questions regarding allowing signature gathering at your parish, please contact the WSCC at 206-301-0556 or wscc@WACatholics.org.

**Initiative Details**
- I-1698 is an initiative to the people that requires an ultrasound of a fetus be performed no less than 24 hours prior to an abortion. If a heartbeat is detected, it will be unlawful for an abortion to be performed.
- Abortion exceptions will be made for cases preventing the death of a pregnant woman. Exceptions are also made for cases involving a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of a pregnant woman.
  - Abortions performed under these circumstances will be documented in a pregnant woman’s medical records and will be maintained by the performing physician for at least seven years.
- Results of ultrasounds will be reported to the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Terminations occurring when a pregnancy is diagnosed as medically futile are not defined as abortions.

**259,622 signatures** must be collected from registered voters. The Secretary of State recommends collecting at least 325,000 signatures to allow for invalid signatures.