

THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION - CNMI

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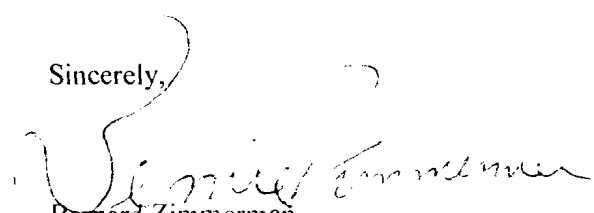
Dear Mr. Sirok,

I understand that you represent the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, which is considering supporting a proposed amendment to the CNMI Constitution on the subject of abortion.

It is the view of the legal consultants to the Third Constitutional Convention that the subject of the legal status of abortion is more properly a legislative rather than a constitutional matter. The jurisprudence of the United States Supreme Court on this subject is evolving. It appears that United States Supreme Court cases control in the CNMI . See Guam Society of Obstetricians v. Ada, 776 F. Supp. 1422, affd. 962 F.2d 1366 (9th Cir. 1992), cert. den. 113 S.Ct. 633.

Our advice to the delegates has been to avoid amendments in areas that are readily subject to change. Consistent with that advice, we suggest that Diocese address its views on abortion to the Legislature .

Sincerely,


Bernard Zimmerman
Legal Consultant

cc: Legal team