

Update on Health Care Reform

The United State Catholic Conference of Bishops continues to urge the Congress and the President to enact health care reform that protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all. On February 24, leadership from the USCCB reiterated that health care reform is a national priority and that any reform bill must:

- Ensure access to quality, affordable, life-giving health care for all;
- Retain longstanding requirements that federal funds not be used for elective abortions or insurance plans that include funding for abortion and effectively protects conscience rights;
- Protect the access to health care that immigrants currently have and removes barriers to access.

The bill passed by the US Senate fails to address the Bishops' concerns about abortion. The Senate bill allows federal funds for elective abortion; uses federal funds to subsidize health plans that cover abortions; mandates that insurance companies deciding to cover elective abortions will collect from each enrollee in a plan a separate payment for such abortions.

The House bill simply follows the current law clearly prohibiting authorization or appropriation of federal funds for elective abortions or health plans that cover them.

Members of the House of Representatives are currently considering what change is needed to the Senate passed bill so that health care reform may proceed.

It is recommended that constituents convey their desire for the substantive changes needed for morally sound health care and not to focus on procedural disputes about Congressional voting rules.

Detailed analysis is available at www.usccb.org; click on the blue “Health Care Reform” banner. Messages may be sent to Congressional representatives by clicking on the “E-mail Congress Now” banner to the right of the screen.

Thank you for your continued advocacy on this important national issue.

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES, NOT DESTROYING THEM.

Tell congress:

“Remove abortion funding mandates from needed health Care Reform!”