

UPDATED: USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert

Pulpit Announcements & Prayer Petition

Instructions: In an October 28 memorandum, diocesan and parish leaders were asked by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to distribute a nationwide bulletin insert on health care reform. Thank you for your great work. Our efforts made a difference. On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed significant health care reform that reaffirmed longstanding and widely supported policy that no federal funds will be used to pay for elective abortions (the Stupak Amendment). It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language that restricts federal funding for elective abortions, and for plans which include elective abortions. This language, approved by the House by a large majority, ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as a part of needed health care reform. The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights, making health care more affordable and accessible for those without coverage, and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied needed health care coverage. **Given upcoming Senate action, the U.S. bishops have asked that the UPDATED: Nationwide Bulletin Insert on health care reform be printed or hand-stuffed in every parish bulletin and/or distributed in pews or at church entrances as soon as possible.** The insert is also available in Spanish.

To be announced at all Masses on the weekend when the Bulletin Insert is distributed:

“Congress continues to debate health care reform legislation. While the U.S. House passed a health care bill that prevents the federal government from funding elective abortions, the U.S. bishops remain deeply concerned about Senate action, especially as it will affect abortion funding, conscience rights, affordability for the poor and vulnerable, and accessibility for immigrants.

In your pews/bulletins today, you’ll find a newly updated flier/bulletin insert from the U.S. Bishops Conference asking you to please contact your Senators immediately and urge them to address these moral issues. The flier/bulletin insert includes a web address that allows you to send an email message to Congress with a click of a button. The bishops have asked for our swift action and our prayers. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will be about saving lives, not destroying them.”

To be announced at all Masses on the weekend following the Bulletin Insert distribution:

“Congress continues to debate health care reform legislation. While the U.S. House passed a health care bill that prevents the federal government from funding elective abortions, the U.S. bishops remain deeply concerned about Senate action, especially as it will affect abortion funding, conscience rights, affordability for the poor and vulnerable, and accessibility for immigrants.

Last weekend you received a special flier/bulletin insert from the U.S. Bishops Conference asking you to please contact your Senators immediately and urge them to address these moral issues. The flier/bulletin insert included a web address that allows you to send an email message to Congress with a click of a button. Additional fliers/bulletin inserts can be found at _____ (back of church, etc.). The bishops have asked for our swift action and our prayers. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will be about saving lives, not destroying them.”

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful:

That Congress will act to ensure that needed health care reform will truly protect the life, dignity and health care of all and that we will raise our voices to protect the unborn and the most vulnerable and to preserve our freedom of conscience. We pray to the Lord.

Please encourage parishioners to pray for this effort as well. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/healthcare.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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UPDATED: NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

U.S. House Keeps Abortion Funding Out of Health Care Reform

Tell Senators: Follow the House's Lead on Removing Abortion Funding

Protect Conscience Rights

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society.

ACTION: Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—SENATE:

“Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform. Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage.”

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

“I am pleased that the House-passed health care reform bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President.”

WHEN: The Senate schedule is uncertain. **Act today! Thank you!**

For more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' position on authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare.

11-13-09



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Urgent Memorandum

Date: November 13, 2009

From: Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, Office of Migration and Refugee Policy, Office of the Secretary of Communications

To: Pastors, Diocesan Pro-Life Directors, Diocesan Social Development Directors, Diocesan Communications Directors, State Catholic Conference Directors

Re: UPDATED: Nationwide Bulletin Insert on Health Care

In an October 28 memorandum, diocesan and parish leaders were asked by the U.S. Bishops Conference to distribute a nationwide bulletin insert on health care reform. Thank you for your great cooperation in that effort. On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform which reaffirmed longstanding and widely supported policy that no federal funds will be used to pay for elective abortions (the Stupak Amendment). Your efforts made a difference.

It is now critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language that restricts federal funding for elective abortions and for plans which include elective abortions. This language, approved by the House by a large majority, ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as a part of needed health care reform. The Senate needs to address other essential moral priorities such as protecting conscience rights, making health care more affordable and accessible for those without coverage, and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied needed health care coverage.

Given upcoming Senate action, the U.S. bishops have asked that the attached UPDATED: Nationwide Bulletin Insert on health care reform be printed or hand-stuffed in every parish bulletin and/or distributed in pews or at church entrances as soon as possible. Senate votes may take place soon. If your Arch/bishop approved disseminating the original bulletin insert last month, this is an update to that bulletin insert.

Also included are suggested Pulpit Announcements and a Prayer Petition. The Insert and Announcements, in Spanish, are also attached. Please encourage parishioners to pray for this effort as well. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Thank you for your urgent actions and prayers on behalf of this nationwide effort!



Memo

Date: November 19, 2009
To: Pastors and Parish Offices
From: Mary Boyert, Director
Respect Life Ministry
Re: URGENT: UPDATED Nationwide Bulletin Insert on Health
Care Reform

Many thanks to all those who responded so quickly to Archbishop Gregory's recent request to alert your parish on health care reform in Congress. Your extra efforts and sacrifices – especially under limited time constraints – are deeply appreciated.

As you may know, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform which reaffirmed longstanding, widely supported policy that no federal funds be used to pay for elective abortions (the Stupak Amendment). Your efforts made a difference. It is now critical that the U.S. Senate adopt similar language, as well as other essential moral priorities such as protecting conscience rights, making health care more affordable and accessible for those without coverage, and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied needed health care coverage.

The USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat just sent us a new, UPDATED alert to be distributed throughout the archdiocese. Please see the attached documents for complete details.

To help keep your parish better informed on these and other urgent matters, please print the following notice in your parish bulletin:

To receive Respect Life Ministry updates and public policy alerts, please fill out the Contact Update Form on our web site:

<http://www.archatl.com/ministries/prolife/contact.php>

For additional information, please call (404) 888-7821. Thank you.

Please let me know if I can help you in any way. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Pro-Life Office

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