



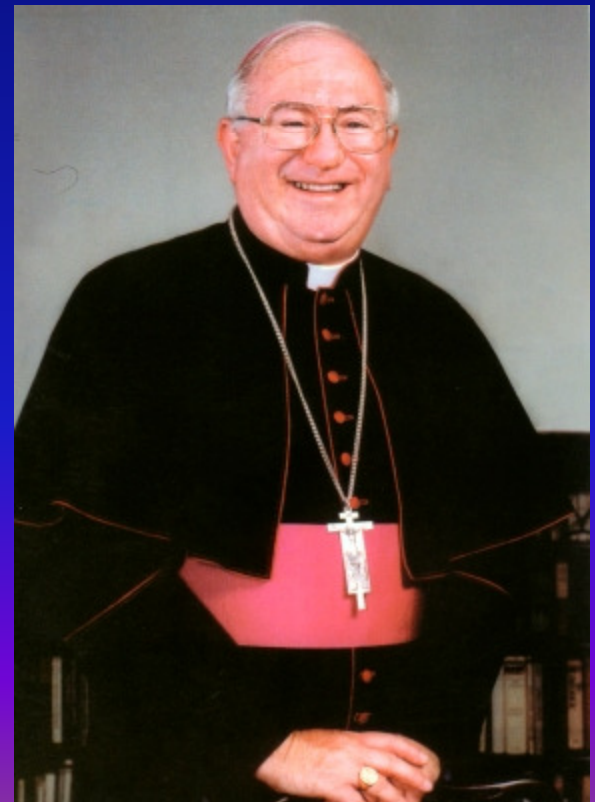
What Does the Catholic Church Have to Say About Healthcare?

Faith to Chew On
September 17, 2009

Is There a Need for Reform?

“Genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all is a moral imperative and a vital national obligation”

Bishop William F. Murphy
Chairman of USCCB Committee
Domestic Justice and
Human Development



Why Is the Church Involved?

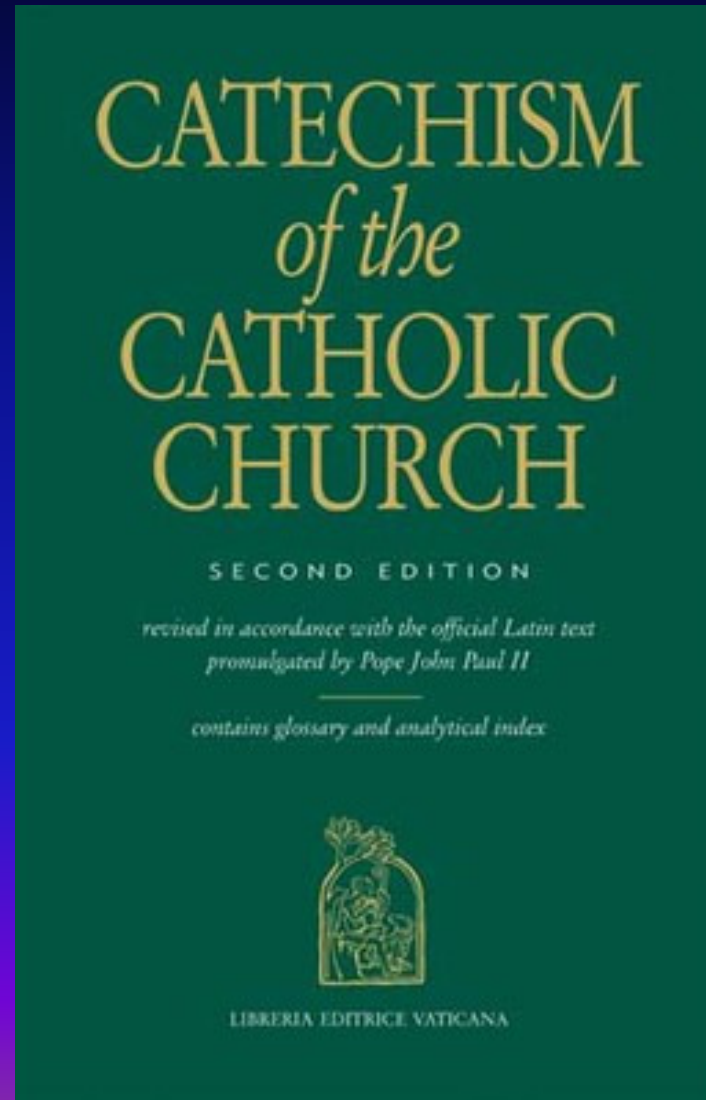
“There is a great deal of attention being given to current government proposals surrounding health care. While it is not the Church’s intention or desire to enter into politics, when moral principles are at stake it is part of her mission to defend the dignity of the human person.”

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Chairman of the USCCB Committee
on Pro-Life Activities



What Does the Catechism Say?

- CCC 1908
- CCC 2211
- CCC 2288



The Church – A Credible Voice in the Debate on Healthcare

- The Catholic Church is one of the largest health care providers in the United States. It's therefore a credible voice and a significant player in the debate surrounding health care reform and the many Americans who will be affected by it . Here's a snapshot of the size and scope in one year of Catholic health care in the U.S.
- More than 16.9 million emergency room visits
- More than 92.7 million outpatient visits
- 5,542,314 Admissions



624 Catholic Hospitals in the US

The Church – A Credible Voice in the Debate on Healthcare

2009 Statistics	
Catholic Hospitals	624
Catholic hospitals in systems	528
Catholic health systems	60
Single-sponsor hospitals	441
Multi-sponsor system hospitals	183
Sponsor congregations of men	6
Sponsor congregations of women	144
Dioceses serving as sponsors	36
Other sponsor models	13
Lay administrators/CEOs	611
Religious administrators/CEOs	13
Systems in the top 40 of US Hospitals (by size)	11

USCCB Position on Healthcare Reform

- A truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity
- Access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants
- Pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism including freedom of conscience and variety of options
- Restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers
- The Church is a legitimate and authoritative voice in speaking about these guiding principles related to morality and social justice.
- The faithful have an obligation to follow these principles.
- In the political arena, there can be legitimate debate and prudential judgments about the best means for implementing programs consistent with these principles, but programs that violate these principles are not legitimate options.

Healthcare Reform Must Be “Abortion Neutral”

- Abortion advocacy groups are trying to use health care reform to advance their agenda, by having Congress or a federal official establish abortion as a “basic” or “essential” health benefit, guaranteeing “access” nationwide and requiring Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars or insurance premiums.
- This would reverse a tradition of federal laws and policies that have barred federal funding and promotion of abortion in all major health programs for over three decades (e.g., the Hyde amendment, 1976), and have respected the right of health care providers to decline involvement in abortion or abortion referrals.
- This agenda would also endanger or render irrelevant numerous local and state laws regulating abortion.
- The bishops cannot, in good conscience, let such an important and pressing issue as health care reform be hijacked by the abortion agenda.
- No health care reform plan should compel anyone to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion.
- Any such action would be morally wrong and politically unwise.

Are the Bishops Advocating Socialized Medicine?

- All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford
- It should not depend on their stage in life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born.
- There may be different ways to accomplish this, but the Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and genuinely

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

MARCH 26TH JOINT LETTER TO THE SENATE (3 Months Before H.R. 3200)

- “On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we call on Congress to place the needs of poor families and the most vulnerable in our nation and around the world first in setting priorities in the federal budget resolution.”
- “The budget choices of Congress have clear moral and human dimensions; they reflect our values as a people.”

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

MAY 20th STATEMENT OF BISHOP WILLIAM MURPHY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- Expressed hope for *serious dialogue* related to healthcare
- Spoke about Church's previous teachings related to social justice, especially healthcare (highlighting *Faithful Citizenship*)
- Presented same four general criteria from earlier & specified their meaning in eight specific criteria (THE SAME CRITERIA WE AS CATHOLICS SHOULD APPLY WHEN CONSIDERING HOUSE RESOLUTION 3200)

Eight Specific Criteria

- ***Respect for life.*** Whether it affirms and respects the sanctity and dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Whether it preserves the longstanding prohibition on federal funding for abortion.
- ***Priority Concern for the Poor.*** Whether it gives special priority to meeting the most pressing health care needs of the poor and underserved, ensuring that they receive quality health services.
- ***Access for All.*** Whether it provides ready access to quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for every person living in the United States.
- ***Comprehensive Benefits.*** Whether it provides comprehensive benefits sufficient to maintain and promote good health; to provide preventive care; to treat disease, injury and disability appropriately; and to care for persons who are chronically ill or dying.

Eight Specific Criteria

- **Pluralism.** Whether it allows and encourages the involvement of the public and private sectors, including the voluntary, religious, and nonprofit sectors, in the delivery of care and services; and whether it ensures respect for religious and ethical values in the delivery of health care, for patients and for individual and institutional providers.
- **Quality.** Whether it promotes the development of processes and standards that will help to achieve quality and equity in health services, in the training of providers, and in the informed participation of individuals and families in decision making on health care.
- **Cost Controls.** Whether it creates effective measures to reduce waste, inefficiency, and unnecessary treatment; measures to control rising costs of competition that provide incentives to individuals and providers for effective and economical use of limited resources.
- **Equitable Financing.** Whether it assures society's obligation to finance universal access to comprehensive health care in an equitable fashion, based on ability to pay; and whether proposed cost-sharing arrangements are designed to avoid creating barriers to effective care for the poor and vulnerable.

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

JULY 17TH LETTER FROM BISHOP WILLIAM MURPHY TO CONGRESS (3 Days after HR 3200 introduced)

- Outlined policy priorities as regards healthcare
- “The USCCB looks forward to working with you to reform health care successfully in a manner that offers accessible, affordable and quality health care that protects and respects the life and dignity of all people from conception until natural death.”
- Offered same four criteria spoken of earlier & called special attention to respect for life & dignity
- “We must also be clear that we strongly oppose inclusion of abortion as part of a national health care benefit. We would also oppose inclusion of technologies that similarly fail to uphold the sanctity and dignity of life. No health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Any such action would Healthcare Letter to be morally wrong.”

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

JULY 17TH LETTER FROM BISHOP WILLIAM MURPHY TO CONGRESS (3 Days after HR 3200 introduced)

- “Health care reform cannot be a vehicle for abandoning this consensus which respects freedom of conscience and honors our best American traditions.”
- “Reform efforts must begin with the principle that decent health care is not a privilege, but a right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person.”
- Appealed for providing equity for LEGAL immigrants
- Health care is not just another issue for the Church or for a healthy society. It is a fundamental issue of human life and dignity. Health care is a critical component of the Catholic Church’s ministry.
- Extends invitation to continue working with Congress as the legislation is further considered and developed

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

JULY 29TH LETTER FROM CARDINAL RIGALI TO HOUSE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

- Addresses deficiencies of HR 3200 that was introduced on July 14th (including making abortion a basic and essential benefit, funding of abortion, overriding laws regulating abortion, & denying conscience rights).
- Urged passage of amendments proposed by Reps. Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA) that addressed these problems and kept the current legislation “abortion neutral”.

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

AUGUST 11TH LETTER FROM CARDINAL RIGALI TO CONGRESS

- The bishops' conference views health care as a basic right belonging to all human beings. We therefore have long supported health care reform that respects human life and dignity from conception to natural death; provides access to quality health care for all, with a special concern for immigrants and the poor; preserves pluralism, with respect for rights of conscience; and restrains costs while sharing them equitably.
- Much-needed reform must not become a vehicle for promoting an “abortion rights” agenda or reversing longstanding policies against federal funding and mandated coverage of abortion.
- The current Act remains seriously deficient because it includes wording that makes unlimited abortion a mandated benefit as well as the “illusion” (Rigali’s word) of not providing federal funds for abortion while in essence doing just that.
- Current plan has no “conscience” exemption.

Key Points Bishops Have Addressed to the Current Congress Regarding Healthcare

SEPTEMBER 6TH LETTER FROM CARDINAL RIGALI & BISHOP MURPHY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

- We have grave concerns about provisions in all versions of the current House bill that could be used to mandate abortion coverage and financing.
- Keeping in place the longstanding and widely supported federal policies against abortion financing and mandates, and favoring conscience rights, will help — not hurt — passage of urgently needed health care reform.
- President Obama, in his Aug. 19 conference call with religious groups, said that health care reform would not finance abortions.
- We urge him to stand by this promise and back efforts in Congress to ensure that this legislation will not force Americans to support the taking of human life at any stage through their taxes or health premiums.

What Can We Do – Prayer & Reflection

- By reflecting on the texts and teachings of our own faiths that guide our understanding of and response to the needs of the uninsured, we will respond with faith.
- By learning more about the plight of the uninsured and potential solutions through study and discussion, we will respond with concern.
- By reaching out to help people without health coverage through health fairs and other volunteer opportunities, we will respond with care.
- By focusing attention on the plight of the uninsured, the poor, the born and unborn, and the vulnerable and promoting respectful discussions in which we invite all Americans to participate in seeking and implementing solutions, we will respond with justice.

What Can We Do – Stay Informed

- Visit the USCCB website to hear what the bishops have already been saying

<http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/index.shtml>

- Sign up to be informed about future issues and alerts! Visit [usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml)

Contact Your Senator

UNITED STATES SENATE

Find Your Senators GO

Search GO

SENATORS | COMMITTEES | LEGISLATION & RECORDS | ART & HISTORY | VISITORS | REFERENCE

Home > Senators Home

Senators of the 111th Congress

Sort by: [Name](#) [State](#) [Party](#) [XML](#)

Choose a State Choose a Senator Choose a Class [What is a class?](#)

Akaka, Daniel K. - (D - HI)	Class I
141 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 (202) 224-6361 Web Form: akaka.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Home	
Alexander, Lamar - (R - TN)	Class II
455 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 (202) 224-4944 Web Form: alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact...	
Barrasso, John - (R - WY)	Class I
307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 (202) 224-6441 Web Form: barrasso.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs...	
Baucus, Max - (D - MT)	Class II
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 (202) 224-2651 Web Form: baucus.senate.gov/contact/emailForm.cfm?subj=issue	
Bayh, Evan - (D - IN)	Class III
131 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 (202) 224-5623 Web Form: bayh.senate.gov/contact/email/	
Begich, Mark	Class II
144 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510	

Biographical Directory
Information about any senator, representative, vice president, or member of the Continental Congress. [GO](#)

Statistical Information
The Senators page on Statistics & Lists is a great resource for information about current and former Senators. Statistics are available on a variety of topics, including biographical characteristics and Senate service records. [GO](#)

Senators Phone List
This list of Senators' suite and phone numbers in pdf format is updated every couple of weeks at the beginning of a new Congress. [GO](#)

Organizational Chart
This [chart](#) shows the relationships among Senate leaders and officers who manage the flow of legislative and administrative business in the Senate.

Contact Your Senator

www.senate.gov to access our senators electronically
(202) 224-3121 to access U.S. Capital Switchboard

Contact Your Representative

The screenshot shows the top of the 'Write Your Representative' website. At the top left is the House of Representatives logo. At the top right, it says '111th Congress, 1st Session' and provides contact information for Washington, DC. Below the logo is a search bar with a 'Go' button. The main heading is 'Write Your Representative'. On the left is a navigation menu with links for Home, Offices, Representatives, Committees, Leadership, House Organizations, Resources, Speaker of the House, Chief Administrative Officer, Clerk of the House, Educational Resources, Government Resources, House Directory, House Rules, Kids in the House, Legislative Archive, Media Resources, Visiting D.C., and House Schedule. The main content area has a sub-heading 'Write Your Representative' and a paragraph explaining the service. Below this is a section titled 'To contact your Representative:' with three numbered steps: 1. Select your location from a dropdown menu (currently showing 'Alphabetical list of states and territories'), 2. Enter your ZIP code and a 4-digit extension in two input fields, and 3. Click the 'Contact My Representative' button. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a note about sending comments to the Service Administrator and that messages for specific representatives will not be forwarded.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

111th Congress, 1st Session
Washington, DC 20515 | (202) 224-3121 | TTY: (202) 225-1904

Write Your Representative

Search Go

Write Your Representative

This service will assist you by identifying your Congressperson in the U.S. House of Representatives and providing contact information. Please review the [frequently asked questions](#) if you have problems using this service.

To contact your Representative:

1. Select your location from list below:
2. Enter your ZIP code and your [4-digit](#) ZIP code extension.
 -
3. Click the "Contact My Representative" button.

Send comments about the Write Your Representative Service to the [Service Administrator](#). Please note that **messages for specific Representatives** sent to the Service Administrator **will not be forwarded** to the Representative.

[Home](#)
[Offices](#)
Representatives
[Committees](#)
[Leadership](#)
[House Organizations](#)
[Resources](#)
[Speaker of the House](#)
[Chief Administrative Officer](#)
[Clerk of the House](#)
[Educational Resources](#)
[Government Resources](#)
[House Directory](#)
[House Rules](#)
[Kids in the House](#)
[Legislative Archive](#)
[Media Resources](#)
[Visiting D.C.](#)
[House Schedule](#)

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

(202) 224-3121 to access U.S. Capital Switchboard

Addresses for Traditional Mail

Second Congressional District

Joseph Donnelly

1530 Longworth HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Senator Evan Bayh

131 Russell SOB

Washington, DC 20510-1404

Fifth Congressional District

Dan Burton

2308 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Senator Richard Lugar

306 Hart SOB

Washington, DC 20510-1401

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

- Get involved locally
- CONTACT:

Mr. Kevin Cullen

Office of Planning and Communication

P.O. Box 1603

Lafayette, IN 47902-1603

Phone: (765) 742-2050

Fax: (765) 742-7513

kcullen@dioceseoflafayette.org

PRAYER FOR THE UNINSURED

Father of goodness and love,
hear our prayers for the uninsured members of our
community
and for all who are in need.

For those who seek care but find that it is out of reach,
may they find consolation in your healing presence.

For all who are blessed with health and security,
may they work to fulfill the needs of those who are sick and
insecure.

For leaders who make decisions that affect the health and
well-being of others, may they strive to ensure the
fundamental right to health care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord
who healed those who believed.

Amen