

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.