



Urgent Memorandum

Date: October 28, 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: URGENT: Nationwide USCCB Bulletin Insert on Health Care Reform

For many years, the U.S. bishops have supported decent health care for all based on our teaching that health care is essential for human life and dignity and on the Church's experience in providing health care and assisting those without coverage. Specifically, the bishops have clearly required that longstanding federal protections that restrict abortion funding and mandates and that protect conscience rights must be reflected in health reform legislation. In addition, the bishops have focused on efforts to insure that coverage is affordable to families and that immigrants have better health care as a result of reform. We seek reform that protects the life, dignity and health care of all.

The President of the Conference and the Chairmen of the three major USCCB committees engaged in health care reform have written all the bishops and asked that the attached USCCB 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. Congressional votes may take place as soon as early November. If your Arch/bishop is not in agreement with disseminating the bulletin insert, you will be hearing from your Arch/diocese immediately.

Also included are suggested Pulpit Announcements and a Prayer Petition. 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!