

"I came so that
they might
have life and
have it more
abundantly."

John 10:10

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

December 22, 2009



**DIOCESE OF
AUSTIN**
The Catholic
Church of
Central Texas

**OFFICE OF
PRO-LIFE
ACTIVITIES
AND CHASTE
LIVING**



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Support Health Care Reform That Respects Life

UPDATE:

The Senate is preparing for a vote on its health care reform bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590). *A final vote on cloture is expected December 23; the vote on passage is expected December 24.*

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced his Manager's Amendment to H.R. 3590. In a December 22 letter, the U.S. Bishops state that the abortion and conscience provisions in this proposal are not acceptable. "Specifically, it violates the longstanding federal policy against the use of federal funds for elective abortions and health plans that include such abortions. . ." The bill also does not provide adequate conscience protection.

The bishops strongly urged the Senate "not to move its current health care reform bill forward without incorporating essential changes to ensure that needed health care reform legislation truly protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all." The bishops conclude: "Until these fundamental flaws are remedied the bill should be opposed." For the full text of this letter, see: nchla.org/docdisplay.asp?ID=313.

ACTION:

Contact your U.S. Senators by e-mail or phone call. 1) It will take less than two minutes to e-mail an automated statement to Senators Cornyn and Hutchison at: <http://actions.nchla.org/link/target/nchla39346545.aspx>. 2) Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call the local offices (Sen. Cornyn: 512-469-6034; Sen. Hutchison: 512-916-5834).

SAMPLE MESSAGE:

The health care reform proposal now before the Senate violates the longstanding federal policy against the use of federal funds for elective abortions and health plans that include such abortions. It also fails to provide adequate conscience protection. Please do not move this bill forward at this time but continue to discuss and approve changes that would make it morally acceptable. If this does not occur, the bill should be opposed.

Please contact Senators Cornyn and Hutchison today!

For Catholic resources for Pro-Life advocacy: www.myprolife.org