



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

# PRESSRELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** Feb. 10, 2012

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## **Bishop responds to HHS revision**

Des Moines Bishop Richard Pates issued the following statement following President Obama's morning press conference.

“The proposal of the President of the United States regarding HHS Rules applicable to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is under study both on the national level of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and locally. It is anticipated that a thorough, thoughtful and reflective appraisal will be forthcoming soon.

The President's announcement came at the time of the meeting of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Des Moines. It provided me the opportunity to discuss with these priest representatives the status of our action in the Diocese of Des Moines. The Council unanimously supported my proposal to go forward in asking the priests in our 81 parishes to either read from the pulpit or print in the parish bulletins the letter I have prepared on the matter and sent earlier this week.

The reason for this is that the overriding issue in the letter is Religious Freedom and Freedom of Conscience, not only the HHS Rules. It is our strong conviction that these freedoms will continue to be tested. It is felt that we need to be both pro-active and vigilant to make certain that these bedrock principles of our government remain intact without compromise.”

*The Diocese of Des Moines includes 81 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.*