



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
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August 19, 2009

Now is the Time

Dear Members of the Church of Des Moines:

Debate is intense as Health Care Reform is considered nationally. The position of the Diocese of Des Moines in coordination with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the consistent teaching of the Catholic Church is:

“Support Health Care Reform with no mandates or funding for abortion.”

- I. The Catholic Church has long supported universal health care reform that respects human life and dignity. The Catholic Church views health care as a basic right belonging to all human beings from conception to natural death. The Catholic Church advocates, therefore, access to quality health care for all that, with a special concern for immigrants and the poor, preserves pluralism, respects the right of conscience, and restrains costs while sharing them equitably.
- II. The Catholic Church opposes all health care reform with mandates or funding for abortion.

I urge you to communicate the following message to our legislative leaders:

“I support health care reform with no mandates or funding for abortion.”

The following contact information should be helpful:

Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Leonard Boswell
1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Steve King
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative David Loebsack
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Tom Latham
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Bruce Braley
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

White House:

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Your voice and involvement are important. You can make a difference. I urge you to act. Now is the time.

Assuring you of my prayers and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard E. Pates", preceded by a small cross symbol.

The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines