



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

PRESSRELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Bishop encourages urgent action, prayers on health care reform

Diocese of Des Moines Bishop Richard E. Pates is encouraging people to contact their U.S. Representatives and Senators, encouraging them to support amendments to proposed health care reform bills that would protect the life of the unborn.

“We are at a critical moment in encouraging people to engage in the debate,” said Bishop Pates. Bulletin inserts are being distributed to all 82 parishes in the Diocese of Des Moines with background on the health care reform debate and contact information for legislators.

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation. The Catholic bishops of the United States strongly support genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all, from the moment of conception until natural death. However, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has concluded that none of the committee-approved bills retain longstanding current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, none fully protects conscience rights in health care, and the bills do not yet provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor.

“I encourage everyone to contact their U.S. Representative and Senators and urge them to fix these proposed bills with pro-life amendments. I also encourage people to pray for this critical

(more)

Health care reform...add 1

effort,” said Bishop Pates. “We can work together to make sure that health care reform is about saving lives.”

For many years, the U.S. Catholic bishops have supported health care for all based on the teaching that health care is essential for human life and dignity.

The bulletin insert going to parishes is attached.

The Diocese of Des Moines includes 82 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.

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