



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## PRESSRELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Bishop releases statement on health care reform**

Bishop Richard E. Pates issued the following statement to the Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines on health care reform:

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.”

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.

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.”

(more)

Healthcare...add 1

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

The full text of a letter from Bishop Pates to Catholics in the Des Moines diocese is attached and can be viewed on the diocesan website at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org).

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