



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

## The Foundation for our Commitment to Health Care for All

Catholic Charities USA has worked over many decades and continues to work for health care reform. This work is based on and guided by the Church's social and moral teachings and informed by pastoral letters from the United States Bishops as well as the Papal Encyclicals.

The basis for this work was best captured recently in a letter to Congress written by Bishop William F. Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Center on behalf of the United States Bishops: "The Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and should be genuinely affordable. ...Health Care is not just another issue for the Church or for a healthy society. It is a fundamental issue of human life and dignity. To see the complete text of this letter, [click here](#).

Catholic Charities USA has adopted the [Catholic Health Association's Vision for U.S. Health Care](#) to guide our collective work in evaluating and supporting any legislation that leads to health care reform.

Let there be no doubt, Catholic Charities USA does not support nor will it support any provision or amendment that fails to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life. Furthermore, we will continue to work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Health Association to ensure that any legislation will continue to support conscience clause protection for health care workers and to ensure that the Hyde exception that no abortion can be funded with federal funds will continue.

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