



## *Catholic Charities Health and Human Services*

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August 10, 2009

Dear Editor,

I have received numerous telephone calls and emails, read organizational newsletters on the Internet, and have had inquiries regarding statements from local radio talk shows that are providing disingenuous information and distortions of Catholic Charities position on health care.

Let there be no doubt that Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland do not support, nor will we support, any provision or amendment to Congress' health care bill that fails to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life from the moment of conception through a person's natural death. We will continue to follow the direction of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Health Association to ensure that any legislation must continue to support conscious clause protection of health care workers. We will insist that funding legislation must ensure that the Hyde exception, no abortion can be funded with Federal funds, also continues.

Catholic Charities has worked over many decades and continues to work for health care reform. Our work at Catholic Charities 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 Papal Encyclicals.

The basis for our work was best captured in a recent letter to Congress written by Bishop William F. Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Center on behalf of the United States Bishops. In his letter, Bishop Murphy emphasizes our insistence on the preservation of life from conception to natural death and that the conscience clause for Catholic workers must be included in any health care reform legislation. I quote from his letter "The Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and affordable. Health care is not just another issue for the Church or for the United States. It is a fundamental issue of human life and dignity."

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Mullen  
President and CEO  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland

