



DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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January 19, 2010

Dear Pastor/Parochial Administrator,

The US Conference of Bishops is closely monitoring activities in Washington as Congress continues to negotiate a final health care bill. Our analysts are now telling us that a critical stage has been reached and it is more important than ever for Catholics to strongly express their concerns to members of Congress.

The dates of a vote on the final bill in House and Senate remain moving targets depending on political factors which certainly will include constituents making their voices heard.

I remain very concerned that the importance of truly protecting the life, human dignity and health of all is not high on the congressional agenda currently being discussed. I strongly encourage you this coming weekend – in accordance with your pastoral discretion – to activate your parishioners in similar ways to our November health care communication campaign:

- Encourage parish-wide distribution of the attached Bulletin Insert which assists parishioners in phoning or sending an e-mail message to Congress. A Spanish version is included. Insert them in bulletins and hand-distribute as possible.
- Use the attached special pulpit announcements for this weekend and for the following weekend.
- Finally, please encourage the people of your parish to pray that Congress will enact true health care reform. A suggested Prayer of the Faithful is included in the Pulpit attachment.

For more information on the U.S. Bishops' advocacy for authentic Health Care Reform, visit <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/>.

Wishing God's continued blessings upon you and your ministry, I remain,

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Rev. Salvatore Cordileone
Bishop of Oakland

CC: Priests of the Diocese of Oakland

To know Christ better and make Him better known