

August 10, 2009

To the Marianist Family,

I just contacted my congressman and two senators about the urgent need for healthcare reform and I urge you to do the same as soon as you have a few minutes .

I'm sure you realize that healthcare reform is the hot issue for August. For one month, the fight for health insurance reform leaves the backrooms of Washington, D.C., and returns to communities across America. Members of Congress will be in their home districts/states until Labor Day, where the hands they shake and the voices they hear will not belong to lobbyists, but to people like you and me. There are now about 49,000,000 Americans who have no health coverage and the same number who do not have anywhere near the coverage that you and I have. More than 14,000 are added to the rolls of the uninsured each day.

There are four requests that we make as we work with the US Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Charities and other national organizations

1. a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity;
2. access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants;
3. pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism including freedom of conscience and variety of options;
4. restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers

At the present time the major proposals do little or nothing to control the cost of healthcare. We spend more money per capita on healthcare in the US than any other nation in the world and yet there are at least ten other countries that have better outcomes. We have a system that is focused on treating people when they are sick rather than on keeping them well.

- If you've contacted your members of Congress before, please do it again. It is important for them to hear directly from constituents that we want them to pass legislation to **make healthcare affordable and accessible to everyone and it needs to be done sooner rather than later.** You can e-mail

your legislator by using the following link

<http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/alert/?alertid=13829611>

- Better take advantage of the August recess to contact your legislators at home in their districts. You can find information on local offices at <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/dbq/officials>. Just enter your zipcode and follow the links to the official you wish to contact.
- Many of the members of the House and Senate are holding meetings in their districts. It might be exciting to attend one of these meetings
- Finally, please consider using the following prayer until some healthcare package is passed, possibly in late September

Prayer for the Uninsured

Father of goodness and love

Hear our prayers for the uninsured members of our community
and for all in need

For those who seek care but find that it is out of reach,
may they find consolation in your healing presence.

For all who are blessed with health and security,
may they strive to fulfill the needs of those who are sick and insecure.

For leaders who make decisions that affect the health and well-being of others,
may they work to ensure the fundamental right to health care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord who healed those who believed.

Amen.

Myles McCabe

Director of Peace and Justice

Marianist Province of the U.S.

4425 West Pine Blvd

St Louis MO 63108

314-533-1207 x235 Cell 314-775-5561