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Andrew D. Rivas, J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 3, 2009

Dear Texas Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Texas, who recently issued a statement on health care reform. Please find the statement, in English and Spanish, included in the final two pages of this fax.

Health care reform is a vital concern in Texas, as our state has one of the highest numbers of uninsured persons in the nation. The Bishops **support** genuine, life-affirming reform to our nation's health care system--reform that guarantees fundamental rights and protections for humans at all stages of life.

The Texas Bishops specifically ask that you please support the Stupak Amendment, which addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the Texas Bishops ask you to oppose the final bill.

The Texas Bishops, members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), have advocated for health care reform for decades. The Catholic approach to healthcare is shaped by the simple, but fundamental, principle that every person has a right to adequate healthcare and that health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rivas
Executive Director
Texas Catholic Conference