



# News Release

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## **Bishop John Gaydos to Testify in Support of SB 749**

February 13, 2012, JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Bishop John Gaydos of the Diocese of Jefferson City will testify on behalf of the Bishops of Missouri in support of Senate Bill 749 to the Senate’s Small Business, Industry and Insurance Committee on Tuesday.

Senate Bill 749, sponsored by Sen. John Lamping (R-St. Louis), seeks to halt the federal mandate by the Obama Administration that requires religious employers to offer health coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and abortion drugs.

The legislation states that no employer or health plan shall be required to provide health coverage for abortion, contraception or sterilization if such items are contrary to the religious beliefs or moral convictions of the employer.

The bill also would prevent the government from discriminating against or penalizing an employer or health plan for refusing to provide such coverage. Under the bill, individuals could not be forced to purchase health plans that include coverage for abortion, contraception or sterilization if such items violate their religious or moral beliefs.

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