



News Release

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MCC Issues Statement on Health Care Reform

February 13, 2013 JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) has issued a statement on health care reform legislation now under discussion in the Missouri General Assembly.

Legislators are tackling a number of bills that would either expand Medicaid, the joint federal-state program that provides health coverage to the poor, or reform the existing program.

The MCC statement, issued Wednesday, February 13, does not endorse any particular bill, but offers some general observations and recommendations.

The MCC statement urges lawmakers to “First, do no harm,” by ensuring that any legislation enacted include a clear prohibition on funding or promoting abortion or any other health practice that destroys human life at any stage of human development.

The MCC is calling for special attention to the health needs of the most impoverished. Many very poor people currently lack health coverage, according to the MCC, including certain elderly and disabled individuals as well as many working parents.

Mike Hoey, the MCC’s executive director, said the MCC wants to make sure that legislators remember the people behind the numbers.

“I understand that legislators must look at the cost of health care and balance the state budget, but at the same time, I hope they will consider the health needs of our poorest citizens,” he said.

Of special concern to the MCC are suggestions to reduce health coverage for pregnant women. “Prenatal care helps both the pregnant woman and her unborn child. I would hope Missouri would continue its prolife concerns for the mother and child,” Hoey said.

- The MCC statement is attached.

