



Official Statement

March 18, 2010

Joint statement from Archbishop José H. Gomez and Bishop Oscar Cantú regarding health care reform legislation.

As the vote on health care reform approaches, we continue to pray that our representatives in Washington will craft and support a health care reform bill that will include protection of all human life and make health care available for those most in need.

We remain united with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops opposing the current Senate Bill, in part, because it would change existing federal law and provide tax dollars for elective abortions. In a recent statement, USCCB President, Cardinal Francis George said, "Because these principles have not been respected, despite the good will that the bill under consideration intends or might achieve, the Catholic bishops regretfully hold that it must be opposed unless and until these serious moral problems are addressed."

As a community of faith the Catholic Church supports true health care reform ensuring that health care is accessible and affordable for all. However, we have consistently communicated to our elected officials our support for a morally responsible bill, consistent with our values, that would protect human life at all stages, include full conscience protection and assure that health care is available for everyone, including our immigrant brothers and sisters.

We ask you to inform your representatives in Washington that you share these grave moral concerns over health care reform that does not protect the dignity of every human life.

Archbishop José H. Gomez,

Bishop Oscar Cantú