

ACTION ALERT: URGE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE ACT

TO: State and Territorial Court Regents and Legislative Chairs

FROM: Margaret Sitte, National Legislative Chair, Catholic Daughters of the Americas

DATE: January 25, 2012

Action Requested: Contact members of Congress to co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act Ask House members to co-sponsor H.R. 1179. Ask Senators to co-sponsor S. 1467. Contact members of the U.S. House and Senate through e-mail, phone calls or FAX. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121), or call the local offices of your Congressman and Senators. Full contact information can be found at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Message: Please co-sponsor H.R. 1179 in the House and S. 1467 in the Senate, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.

Background: on January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed the rule first issued last August that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. Non-profit religious employers that do not now provide such coverage, and are not exempt under the rule's extremely narrow definition of religious employer, are given one year to comply.

Responding to the announcement, Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated: "In effect, the President is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences." The Obama administration "has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand." Cardinal-designate Dolan urged that the HHS mandate be overturned.

Reminder: Make contact as an individual citizen using your name and address—not as a member of Catholic Daughters.

Approved: Joanne Tomassi, National Regent

SENATE COSPONSORS(23), ALPHABETICAL (as of Jan. 25, 2012)

Sen Ayotte, Kelly [NH] - 8/2/2011
Sen Barrasso, John [WY] - 10/5/2011
Sen Boozman, John [AR] - 10/5/2011
Sen Burr, Richard [NC] - 10/5/2011
Sen Coats, Daniel [IN] - 9/7/2011
Sen Coburn, Tom [OK] - 10/17/2011
Sen Cornyn, John [TX] - 10/5/2011
Sen Crapo, Mike [ID] - 10/5/2011
Sen Enzi, Michael B. [WY] - 10/5/2011
Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [UT] - 10/5/2011
Sen Hoeven, John [ND] - 10/5/2011
Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK] - 10/5/2011
Sen Johanns, Mike [NE] - 9/6/2011
Sen Moran, Jerry [KS] - 9/6/2011

Sen Nelson, E. Benjamin [NE] - 10/19/2011
Sen Paul, Rand [KY] - 9/14/2011
Sen Portman, Rob [OH] - 10/31/2011
Sen Risch, James E. [ID] - 9/12/2011
Sen Roberts, Pat [KS] - 10/5/2011
Sen Rubio, Marco [FL] - 8/2/2011
Sen Thune, John [SD] - 9/6/2011
Sen Toomey, Pat [PA] - 10/20/2011
Sen Wicker, Roger F. [MS] - 9/9/2011

HOUSE COSPONSORS(101), ALPHABETICAL (as of Jan. 25, 2012)

Rep Akin, W. Todd [MO-2] - 9/20/2011
Rep Altmire, Jason [PA-4] - 10/24/2011
Rep Bachmann, Michele [MN-6] - 11/3/2011
Rep Barletta, Lou [PA-11] - 12/6/2011
Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] - 11/1/2011
Rep Benishek, Dan [MI-1] - 1/23/2012
Rep Bishop, Rob [UT-1] - 8/1/2011
Rep Blackburn, Marsha [TN-7] - 8/5/2011
Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] - 10/4/2011
Rep Boren, Dan [OK-2] - 3/17/2011
Rep Broun, Paul C. [GA-10] - 11/3/2011
Rep Buerkle, Ann Marie [NY-25] - 4/14/2011
Rep Burton, Dan [IN-5] - 8/9/2011
Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-44] - 9/12/2011
Rep Canseco, Francisco "Quico" [TX-23] - 5/24/2011
Rep Cassidy, Bill [LA-6] - 10/4/2011
Rep Chabot, Steve [OH-1] - 8/5/2011
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Rep Cravaack, Chip [MN-8] - 11/1/2011
Rep Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [AR-1] - 10/4/2011
Rep Davis, Geoff [KY-4] - 8/23/2011
Rep Duffy, Sean P. [WI-7] - 10/4/2011
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Rep Fleming, John [LA-4] - 9/12/2011
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Rep Griffith, H. Morgan [VA-9] - 5/4/2011
Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] - 9/7/2011
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Rep Harris, Andy [MD-1] - 7/27/2011
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Rep Heck, Joseph J. [NV-3] - 10/4/2011
Rep Huelskamp, Tim [KS-1] - 4/14/2011
Rep Huizenga, Bill [MI-2] - 9/7/2011
Rep Hultgren, Randy [IL-14] - 8/16/2011
Rep Johnson, Bill [OH-6] - 9/20/2011
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Rep Landry, Jeffrey M. [LA-3] - 10/4/2011
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Rep Latta, Robert E. [OH-5] - 9/12/2011
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Rep Long, Billy [MO-7] - 9/12/2011
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Rep Lummis, Cynthia M. [WY] - 10/12/2011
Rep Manzullo, Donald A. [IL-16] - 9/20/2011
Rep Marchant, Kenny [TX-24] - 9/12/2011
Rep McCaul, Michael T. [TX-10] - 6/23/2011
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Rep McCotter, Thaddeus G. [MI-11] - 5/4/2011
Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] - 10/13/2011
Rep McKeon, Howard P. "Buck" [CA-25] - 11/1/2011
Rep McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [WA-5] - 3/17/2011
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Rep Murphy, Tim [PA-18] - 8/23/2011
Rep Myrick, Sue Wilkins [NC-9] - 8/23/2011
Rep Neugebauer, Randy [TX-19] - 4/7/2011
Rep Nunnelee, Alan [MS-1] - 9/13/2011
Rep Olson, Pete [TX-22] - 1/23/2012
Rep Palazzo, Steven M. [MS-4] - 8/9/2011
Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14] - 5/24/2011
Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] - 4/1/2011
Rep Pence, Mike [IN-6] - 9/12/2011
Rep Platts, Todd Russell [PA-19] - 8/5/2011
Rep Pompeo, Mike [KS-4] - 9/12/2011
Rep Rigell, E. Scott [VA-2] - 11/3/2011
Rep Rogers, Mike J. [MI-8] - 9/12/2011
Rep Rooney, Thomas J. [FL-16] - 4/1/2011
Rep Roskam, Peter J. [IL-6] - 9/12/2011
Rep Ross, Dennis [FL-12] - 9/12/2011
Rep Scalise, Steve [LA-1] - 3/17/2011
Rep Schilling, Robert T. [IL-17] - 8/9/2011
Rep Schmidt, Jean [OH-2] - 7/28/2011
Rep Schock, Aaron [IL-18] - 9/12/2011
Rep Scott, Tim [SC-1] - 9/20/2011
Rep Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [WI-5] - 7/22/2011
Rep Smith, Adrian [NE-3] - 7/28/2011
Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4] - 6/14/2011
Rep Terry, Lee [NE-2] - 7/22/2011
Rep Thornberry, Mac [TX-13] - 10/6/2011
Rep Tiberi, Patrick J. [OH-12] - 3/17/2011
Rep Turner, Michael R. [OH-3] - 1/23/2012
Rep Walberg, Tim [MI-7] - 3/17/2011
Rep Walsh, Joe [IL-8] - 9/23/2011

For an updated list of co-sponsors, please check H.R. 1179 and S. 1467
at: thomas.loc.gov.