

CDA ACTION ALERT: Support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act HR 1179

TO: State and Territorial Court Regents and Legislative Chairs

FROM: Mary Ann Rowe, National Legislative Co-Chair

DATE: July 21, 2011

Action Requested: Check to see if your Representative is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1179. See thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:HR01179:@@P. If Representatives within your area have not yet co-sponsored, please call their offices and urge them to do so. 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: "Co-sponsor HR-1179 Respect for Rights of Conscience Act."

Background: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has renewed its call in support of the Rights of Conscience Act, H. R. 1179.

On July 19, the Institute of Medicine submitted its recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services on the mandated "preventive services" for women under the new health care law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The list of "essential health benefits" and a separate list of mandated "preventive services for women" may be used to require almost all private health plans to cover various procedures rejected by Catholic teaching, such as abortifacients, contraception, sterilization, in vitro fertilization, and treatments using material from deliberately killed unborn children.

Speaking for the Catholic bishops, Cardinal DiNardo objected to the report's mandated coverage of surgical sterilization and of "all FDA-approved birth control (including the IUD, 'morning-after' pills, and the abortion-inducing drug Ella)" and of "education and counseling" to promote these among all "women of reproductive capacity."

If HHS accepts these recommendations, all insurance plans will be required to cover these controversial practices without a co-pay from recipients. DiNardo said, "The considerable cost of these practices will be paid by all who participate in health coverage. . . . [S]uch a mandate would require all . . . to carry health coverage that violates the deeply-held moral and religious convictions of many."

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

Approved: Joanne Tomassi, National Regent