

URGENT ACTION ALERT: URGE YES VOTE ON RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE AMENDMENT

TO: State and Territorial Court Regents and Legislative Chairs

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

DATE: February 27, 2012

Action Requested: In the next couple days, the Senate is expected to vote on the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act in the form of an amendment to Transportation Authorization Bill (S. 1813). Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), the primary sponsor of the conscience protection bill, has introduced Senate Amendment 1520. Contact members of the Senate, especially these ten Senators if you are from one of these states, urging them to vote yes on the Blunt Amendment 1520. If you don't live in these states but know someone who does, please forward this message immediately.

[202-224-2043](#) – Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota

[202-224-2523](#) – Sen. Susan Collins of Maine

[202-224-5344](#) – Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine

[202-224-5824](#) – Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana

[202-224-4041](#) – Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut

[202-224-3954](#) – Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia

[202-224-6154](#) – Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri

[202-224-5274](#) – Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida

[202-224-2353](#) – Sen. Mark Pryor of Arkansas

[202-224-2644](#) – Sen. Jon Tester of Montana

If you get a busy signal, try calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Contact members of the Senate through e-mail, phone calls or FAX. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at [202-224-3121](#), or call the local offices of your Senators. Full contact information can be found at www.senate.gov.

Message: Please vote yes on the Blunt Amendment 1520, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, to 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 February 10, despite nationwide protest, President Obama adopted a final rule “without change” (Federal Register, 2/15/12, 8725) that requires many religious employers to provide their employees with mandated services. Included in the mandate are sterilization, all FDA-approved birth control (such as the IUD, Depo-Provera, ‘morning-after’ pills, and the abortion-inducing drug Ella), and “education and counseling” to promote these among all “women of reproductive capacity.”

Cardinal Timothy Dolan recently wrote a letter saying, “In the United States, religious liberty does not depend on the benevolence of who is regulating us. It is our “first freedom” and respect for it must be broad and inclusive—not narrow and exclusive.”

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

Approved: Joanne Tomassi, National Regent