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, 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 Barrasso, John [WY] - 10/5/2011
Sen Boozman, John [AR] - 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 Hoeven, John [ND] - 10/5/2011
Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK] - 10/5/2011
Sen Johanns, Mike [NE] - 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 Rubio, Marco [FL] - 8/2/2011
Sen Thune, John [SD] - 9/6/2011
Sen Toomey, Pat [PA] - 10/20/2011

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

Rep Altmire, Jason [PA-4] - 10/24/2011
Rep Benishek, Dan [MI-1] - 1/23/2012
Rep Bishop, Rob [UT-1] - 8/1/2011
Rep Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12] - 8/1/2011
Rep Franks, Trent [AZ-2] - 6/14/2011
Rep Graves, Sam [MO-6] - 9/7/2011
Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] - 9/7/2011
Rep Harris, Andy [MD-1] - 7/27/2011
Rep Huizenga, Bill [MI-2] - 9/7/2011
Rep Hultgren, Randy [IL-14] - 8/16/2011
Rep Kelly, Mike [PA-3] - 10/25/2011
Rep King, Peter T. [NY-3] - 10/13/2011
Rep Kinzinger, Adam [IL-11] - 10/12/2011
Rep Lewis, Jerry [CA-41] - 8/1/2011
Rep Lummis, Cynthia M. [WY] - 10/12/2011
Rep Manzullo, Donald A. [IL-16] - 9/20/2011
Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] - 10/13/2011
Rep Miller, Gary G. [CA-42] - 10/6/2011
Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] - 4/1/2011
Rep Olson, Pete [TX-22] - 1/23/2012
Rep Pence, Mike [IN-6] - 9/12/2011
Rep Rogers, Mike J. [MI-8] - 9/12/2011
Rep Ross, Dennis [FL-12] - 9/12/2011
Rep Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [WI-5] - 7/22/2011
Rep Smith, Adrian [NE-3] - 7/28/2011

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