



From the President

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

Dear Board of Trustees and Diocesan Directors:

In recent days Catholic Charities USA has been getting attacked on some "Catholic" blogs for supporting health care reform measures that would include the federal funding of abortion. Let me assure you, nothing could be further from the truth. I understand that many of you are now also receiving e-mails. Below you will find our statement in response to these unfounded accusations. I hope that it might be helpful if you choose to respond.

This seems to be an orchestrated attack by opponents of health care reform who are operating under the cloak of religious motivation. If you explore the web sites, you soon find that some use the principles of conservative think tanks as their guide and even take the bishops to task when they deviate from them. This is as unfortunate as it is dishonest on their part.

You can feel free to refer people to our website or that of the USCCB or CHA where they will see that they are unfounded. This debate could possibly go on for some time yet—let us hope that some semblance of civility will return!

Wishing God's blessings upon you and your ministry,
Fr. Larry Snyder

Statement of Catholic Charities USA:

In response to inaccurate on line media reports, Catholic Charities USA states unequivocally that it does not support any plan to reform health care and/or any proposed legislative provision that allows or promotes the funding of abortions or that compels any health care provider or institution to provide such a service. In fact, Catholic Charities USA will continue to work with the Catholic Health Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to ensure that any health care reform legislation will not include such provisions. All media accounts or public comments that misrepresent this position are inaccurate.

"These attacks appear to be politically motivated by opponents of health care reform. They are distortions of the truth and disingenuous. Catholic Charities USA will continue to work to reform health care in a way that is consistent with the teachings of our faith." Fr. Larry Snyder, President

For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1782>

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