

Talking Points

- Clergy from many faiths oppose the attempts to undermine all national health care reform and affirm that public access to health care, including reproductive services, should be free from outside parochial biases and religious restrictions. (See sample press statement of religious leaders below)
- One particular religious belief system must not be imposed on all of us especially at the expense of public health.
- Health care reform should strengthen and protect women's health care, not weaken it.
- While we applaud the efforts of our elected leaders in passing this historic piece of legislation, it is unacceptable that women's health was sacrificed in order to pass a bill with a supposed intent of expanding health care access.
- The Stupak/Pitts amendment violates the spirit of health care reform, which is meant to guarantee quality, affordable health care coverage for all. In fact, this amendment would create a two-tiered system that would punish women, particularly those with low and middle incomes, the very people this bill is intended to assist.
- Those who support this amendment do NOT speak for all religious leaders and people of faith. We have a special responsibility to bear witness in support of equal access to health care for all - in fact, it is our moral obligation. It is our duty to truthfully inform the public, including elected representatives, so they may understand the theological and moral basis for real health care reform. Therefore, we must oppose those who wish to take an enormous step backward on women's rights and exclude reproductive health care from any health care reform legislation.
- A government committed to human rights and democracy can privilege the teachings of one religion over another. No single religious voice can speak for all faith traditions on abortion, nor should government take sides on religious differences. Women must have the right to apply or reject the principles of their own faith without legal restrictions. We oppose any attempt to make specific religious doctrine concerning abortion the law for all Americans or for the women of the world.
- There are diverse opinions when it comes to health care. People of faith agree that access to health care is important. The principle of religious liberty should not cause harm. One person's conscience ends where another person's conscience begins.

Sample Bulletin Insert