




Catholic Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry

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July 22, 2011

Dear Friends of Respect Life,

An Action Alert has been sent out by the USCCB requesting that we urge members of Congress to **support HR 1179, the *Respect for Rights of Conscience Act***. This legislation seeks to correct the inadequate religious/conscience protections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment's alert, with links to more detailed information regarding recent developments and confirmation of the need for this legislation (as well as a button on the top right to send an email!) can be found here: www.nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292.

I have just completed phone calls to the US Congressional Offices with districts in our diocese requesting their support. In addition to sending an email from the link above, if you too can make a call to your representative that would be helpful.

US Representatives with districts (at least in part) in the Diocese of Belleville (Click name to get to Representative's website):

[Jerry Costello](#)

618-233-8026
202-225-5661

[Timothy Johnson](#)

618-262-8719
202-225-2371

[John Shimkus](#)

618-252-8271
618-2255271

For contact strips to print/distribute click for [side one](#) and [side two](#).

It is important to stress that while the immediate issue of concern/risk in the current developments is specific services about which the Church teachings are clear, even for non-Catholics the implication to continued conscience protection in health care in general, and religious freedom more broadly, is significant. Consequently, regardless of one's personal views of the services in question, HR 1179 is a piece of legislation important to all of us.

Thank you for being a Witness to Life!

Blessings,

Laurie Edwards



May truth and love promote healing and wholeness!