

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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January 5, 2010

Michael W. Welch
State Deputy
934 Les Rogers Turnaround
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Worthy State Deputy and dear Brother Welch:

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have now passed health care reform bills. Thanks to the efforts of Brother Knight Congressman Bart Stupak (D-MI), a broad bipartisan coalition of representatives was able to add language to the House version that maintains the long-standing policy against the federal funding of abortion. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not. It fails to maintain the policy against the federal funding of abortion and does not protect the conscience rights of those who refuse to participate in abortion. The U.S. bishops have called the Senate version "deficient" and have said that it should be opposed.

A joint House and Senate conference committee will soon meet to reconcile the difference between these two bills, and both chambers are expected to vote on a final common bill in January. It is crucial that every member of the House and Senate hear from us so that the final bill will not mandate federal funding of abortion and will adequately protect conscience rights.

I urge you to contact every Knight in your state and ask them to contact their elected representatives in both the House and the Senate. They can reach their elected representatives by email, phone calls or fax letters. Please go to the Knights of Columbus homepage at www.kofc.org for instructions on how to contact your Representative and Senators.

Brother Knights should also immediately call or visit the local office of their Representative and Senators while they are in their home districts during the Christmas recess.

Time is of the essence. Congress returns to Washington soon. We must prevent this health care legislation from becoming the largest expansion of abortion in our country since *Roe v. Wade*.

Fraternally,



Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight