

Celebrating 100 Years



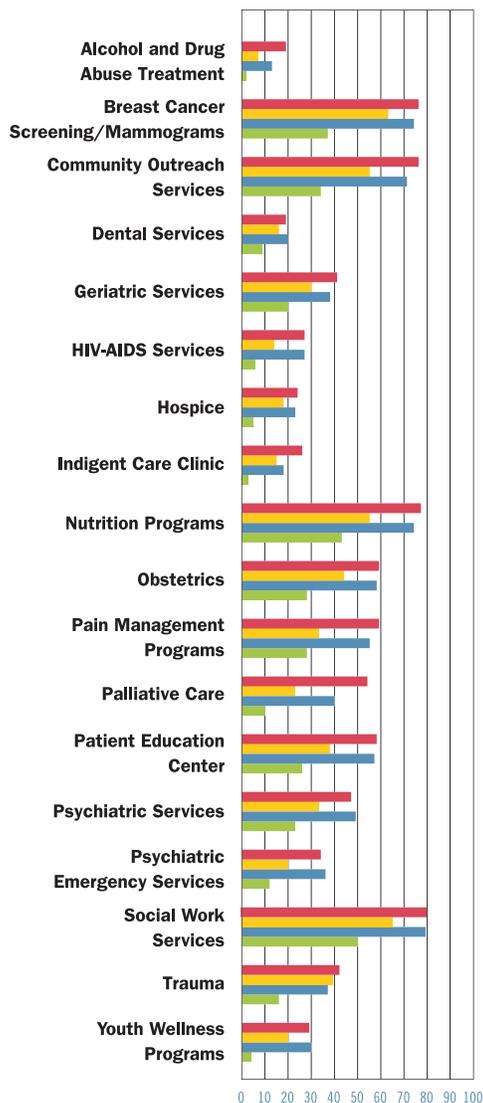
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Advocacy Agenda 2015 – 2016 (114th CONGRESS)



PERCENT OF U.S. HOSPITALS OFFERING SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPECIALTY SERVICES

Catholic hospitals often provide a higher percentage of public health and specialty services than other health care providers. These organizations' dedication to the common good often leads them to offer some traditionally "unprofitable" services.

- Catholic
- State/Local Government
- Other Not-for-Profit
- Investor-Owned (For-Profit)



Source: Source: 2013 American Hospital Association Annual Survey.

ABOUT CHA

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) is the national leadership organization of the Catholic health ministry, representing the largest not-for-profit provider of health care services in the nation. By pursuing the priorities of the ministry, CHA is working to create health care that serves everyone. All 50 states and the District of Columbia are served by Catholic health care organizations providing acute care, skilled nursing and other services including hospice, home health, assisted living and senior housing.

Our advocacy is grounded in the core values that form the CHA Vision for U.S. Health Care:

HUMAN DIGNITY: Because each person is created in the image of God, each life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth. Health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual from conception to natural death.

CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE: The moral measure of society is how it treats the poor and vulnerable, who are particularly marginalized by a lack of access to health care.

JUSTICE: Health care is a basic human right alongside food and shelter, all of which are necessary for individuals to participate fully in society.

COMMON GOOD: The health and well-being of each person is intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community. Access to health care is an essential element contributing to the common good alongside others such as education, employment and a safe environment.

STEWARDSHIP: Our societal resources are finite, and we must make wise choices for how they are allocated. Health care resources should focus on the well-being of the community and be structured to deliver the care that is most medically beneficial and promotes public health.

PLURALISM: The health care system should allow and encourage involvement of the public and private sectors including voluntary, religious and not-for-profit organizations, and it should respect the religious and ethical values of patients and health care providers alike.

Advocacy Agenda

ENSURING ACCESS AND COVERAGE FOR ALL

CHA advocates a health care system that achieves health equity by ensuring everyone has access to quality care. The Affordable Care Act takes a significant step toward expanding access to health insurance coverage and improving our delivery system. During the 114th Congress, we will work to:

- ✦ Continue to expand health care access and coverage, including coverage for immigrants regardless of status
- ✦ Ensure continued adequate funding for the health care law in accordance with CHA's *Vision for U.S. Health Care*
- ✦ Ensure that health insurance exchanges, Medicaid coverage expansion and insurance reforms achieve the promise of coverage and high-quality integrated care for millions of uninsured individuals
- ✦ Support policies to improve access and outcomes and reduce costs, including health technology; telemedicine; care coordination; and prevention and wellness
- ✦ Facilitate care integration and coordination among physicians, hospitals and post-acute care services
- ✦ Ensure the availability of care in underserved areas by increasing the number of primary care physicians, advanced practice clinicians and mental health providers, and by supporting critical access hospitals

ENHANCING MEDICAID, MEDICARE AND ENSURING A STRONG SAFETY NET

The Catholic health ministry is committed to serving those in need, young and old, throughout every stage of life, and to advocating on their behalf. We support policies to:

- ✦ Ensure that efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit are equitable and balanced, and do not disproportionately impact health care or the social safety net

- ✦ Provide adequate and sustainable financing to ensure the ability of health care providers to maintain quality and compassionate care
- ✦ Improve access and care coordination in Medicaid, Medicare and other safety net programs by enhancing primary care and long term care services and support to ensure greater use of medical homes, care coordinators, and chronic care management
- ✦ Expand programs and funding of mental and behavioral health services, especially community-based care, to ensure access to coordinated, holistic care
- ✦ Protect access to affordable drugs for low-income individuals through such efforts as the 340(b) drug discount program

STRENGTHENING AGING AND CHRONIC CARE SERVICES

CHA strongly supports efforts to coordinate and integrate person-centered health care services along the continuum of care, ensuring compassionate care while protecting the inherent dignity of every individual. CHA supports policies that:

- ✦ Provide adequate and sustainable financing to ensure the ability of long-term care facilities and services to provide quality and compassionate care
- ✦ Promote improved coordination of care for those with chronic or serious illness
- ✦ Provide elders and persons with disabilities options to receive long-term care services in the most appropriate care setting, whether at home, in the community (such as PACE) or in a facility
- ✦ Improve access to palliative care ensuring relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness as a core component of the health care system.

ENSURING CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

We support measures that allow us to maintain our Catholic identity and protect and defend human life from conception to natural death. We will work to:

- ✦ Preserve and strengthen existing provider conscience protections and other measures to allow the ministry to provide care consistent with our faith
- ✦ Advocate health care programs and policies that acknowledge our religious, ethical and moral values

IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF COMMUNITIES

Catholic providers are committed to improving the health and well-being of their communities and population health through partnerships with other health and community providers, social and health service organizations, and government agencies. CHA supports policies that:

- ✦ Eliminate disparities in health care access, services, quality and outcomes based on race, ethnicity, citizenship, language preference, or socio-economic status
- ✦ Recognize and address determinants of health including socio-economic factors, geographic location, language barriers, environment and level of education
- ✦ Further our mission to care for those in need, strengthening not-for-profit health care, and protecting tax-exempt status
- ✦ Ensure fair implementation of tax-exemption requirements in the Affordable Care Act
- ✦ Allow for the provision and reporting of financial assistance and community benefit in a manner that reflects the identified needs of individual communities and our commitment to low income persons and healthy communities
- ✦ Address social justice issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, human trafficking, environmental responsibility and the promotion of affordable housing



Washington, DC Office

1875 Eye Street NW, Ste. 1000
Washington, DC 20006
202.296.3993 *phone*
202.296.3997 *fax*

St. Louis Office

4455 Woodson Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63134
314.427.2500 *phone*
314.427.0029 *fax*

www.chausa.org



AS THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE, WE COMMIT TO:

- + Promote and Defend Human Dignity
- + Attend to the Whole Person
- + Care for Poor and Vulnerable Persons
- + Promote the Common Good
- + Act on Behalf of Justice
- + Steward Resources
- + Act in Communion with the Church

**THE SHARED STATEMENT
OF IDENTITY *for* THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY**

We are the people of Catholic health care, a ministry of the church, continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. As provider, employer, advocate, citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace. We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.