



February 15, 2005

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

The Catholic Health Association (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, would like to express strong support for S. 306, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2005." We are pleased that the Senate has chosen to act so quickly on this important legislation.

We believe this legislation would serve as an important compliment to other federal and state laws that recognize the need to protect an individual's genetic information from being used in a discriminatory manner in the health insurance and employment markets. Specifically, the bill would:

- Prohibit health insurers from restricting enrollment or adjusting fees on the basis of predictive genetic information
- Bar health insurers and employers from requiring genetic testing and from obtaining predictive genetic information
- Prevent employers from discriminating based on genetic information in all areas of employment, including hiring and compensation

Genetic science has seen marvelous growth over the past several years, and Catholic social teaching validates its use when its goal is respect for personal dignity, the defense of human life, and support of the common good. CHA believes that S. 306 reflects these principles, and we appreciate your efforts to protect the use of genetic information for this purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers".

Michael Rodgers
Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy

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