



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

Sep. 17, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations is committed to promoting the health of all people, especially for those who are poor and vulnerable. In our ministry we have witnessed firsthand the close relationship between good health and a beneficial living environment. As a faith-based organization we also are called to respond to the recent invitation from Pope Francis to be diligent caretakers of creation, a “wonderful gift that God has given us.”

We believe that climate change poses a serious problem. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently stated, some of the communities served by the Church already are suffering from the adverse effects of climate change, including limited access to water, widespread disease, dangers to crop yields and declining natural resources. For Catholic health care providers, climate change is a moral concern that goes to the heart of our commitment to social and economic justice and to the biblical call to be faithful and responsible stewards of the earth and its inhabitants.

As you welcome Pope Francis and his address to Congress, we urge you to pay close attention to his message on climate change and its impact on health, particularly on vulnerable children and the elderly. And we urge you to take timely action on two Catholic-supported measures. First, to help our country enact standards on carbon pollution from power plants, such as the standards in the Clean Power Plan. And second, to support the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries adapt to climate change.

Pope Francis’s call to protect creation and show respect for human life and dignity by addressing climate change has been an inspiration to our Catholic health ministry, and we hope that it will inspire all Americans to take action on this urgent issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Smith, CHA Sr. Director, Government Relations, at 202-296-3993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and CEO