



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

January 6, 2011

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I would like to welcome you to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and offer you the best wishes and support of the Catholic health ministry as you begin your work.

Our health ministry has a long and distinguished history of serving everyone in our communities, particularly the poor and vulnerable. Since 1915, Catholic health care organizations have worked together to help achieve their goals through CHA. Catholic health care is led by dedicated women and men, both religious and lay, who combine advanced technology and innovative treatment with a caring tradition. As provider, employer and advocate in 61 health care systems and other facilities present in all 50 states, we are committed to improving the health status of communities and creating quality and compassionate care for everyone. We are the nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care providers caring for people of all beliefs and traditions and attending to them in body, mind and spirit. **For a listing of Catholic health care facilities and the persons served and employed by them in your state, please [click here](#) to visit our website.**

CHA is committed to advocate on behalf of those we serve in our communities especially the poor and vulnerable and we look forward to working with you over the next two years on issues of importance to the continuing provision of health care services in our nation. Above all, CHA remains firmly dedicated to protecting life from conception until natural death and ensuring accessible and affordable health care for all. Additionally, we hope to work with you to strengthen the nation's safety net and the role of not-for-profit health care as a vital component of the nation's health care system; to support policies to improve the delivery of health care; and to support measures that maintain our Catholic identity and promote social justice.

Again, we welcome you to the work ahead of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, and stand ready to assist you in any way we can. For further information about CHA and its members, or for any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of CHA's Washington-based advocacy and public policy staff.

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