

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:



On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), I am writing to thank you and your Committee members for the extraordinary efforts you are making toward comprehensive health care reform. We are pleased that the Energy and Commerce Committee is making progress and urge you to keep the process moving forward so health care reform can be successful in the near term.

CHA and its members are committed to creating a health care system that ensures everyone will get the health care they need, when they need it. CHA's [*Vision for U.S. Health Care*](#) lays out the Catholic health ministry's principles for reforming the health care system. Central to our vision, we believe that health care should be:

- Available and accessible to everyone, paying special attention to the poor and vulnerable;
- Health and prevention oriented, with the goal of enhancing the health status of communities;
- Sufficiently and fairly financed;
- Transparent and consensus-driven, in allocation of resources, and organized for cost-effective care and administration;
- Patient centered, and designed to address health needs at all stages of life, from conception to natural death; and
- Safe, effective and designed to deliver the greatest possible quality.

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The 47 million individuals without insurance, the 16 million individuals who are underinsured, and the insured who have trouble affording their coverage are all counting on your continued effort to reform our health care system. For these people, the current U.S. health care system is failing. It is clear that fundamental, comprehensive reform of the health care system is not merely a financial or political issue, but a moral imperative as well.

Perhaps at no other time in our nation's history has health reform been so necessary and so possible to achieve, and I thank you and your Committee members for all of the work you are doing to provide meaningful health coverage

for everyone. If we at CHA can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our advocacy staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'S'.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC

President and CEO

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee