



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

February 1, 2012

Dear Parishioners:

I am writing to ask your support in reversing the new federal health care insurance edict, which will require that all employers (with few exceptions) pay for health coverage for sterilization, contraception, and medication that induces abortion. As written, it violates our First Amendment right to freedom of religion, and is therefore unconstitutional.

This federal mandate would force Catholic institutions to pay for health insurance on matters that contradict our religious principles. It would impact over 77,000 employees of Catholic Charities across the country, numerous Catholic colleges, universities, hospitals, schools, and large numbers of employees who work for Catholic Relief Services.

Please join me and Dioceses across the United States in a vigorous campaign to reverse this decree, which is contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church – and a direct affront to the religious liberty and the conscience protection of all. I am asking you to contact personally our two Connecticut U.S. Senators and our five U.S. Representatives. I have attached their contact information with this letter.

Thank you profoundly for your support, and may God bless us in this monumental effort to preserve our Church and to safeguard the fundamental principles of our country.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry J. Mansell".

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford

Suggested Text:

I ask you to oppose vigorously the new United States Health and Human Services mandate on health insurance. In demanding payment by employers in support of practices that run directly opposite to Catholic teaching and practice, it violates the basic principle in our country of freedom of religion. Your strong opposition to this edict will be appreciated.

Connecticut U.S. Legislators

U.S. Senate

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman

1 Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
(P) 860-549-8463
(F) 866-317-2242
www.lieberman.senate.gov/

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

90 State House Square, 10th Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
(P) 860-258-6940
(F) 860-258-6958
www.blumenthal.senate.gov/

U.S. Congress

District 1

The Honorable John Larson

221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(P) 860-278-8888
(F) 860-278-2111
www.larson.house.gov/

District 2

The Honorable Joe Courtney

101 Water Street, Suite 301
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(P) 860-886-0139
(F) 860-886-2974
www.courtney.house.gov/

District 3

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

59 Elm Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510
(P) 203-562-3718
(F) 201-772-2260
www.delauro.house.gov/

District 4

The Honorable Jim Himes

211 State Street, 2nd Floor
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
(P) 866-453-0028
(F) 203-333-6655
www.himes.house.gov/

District 5

The Honorable Chris Murphy

114 West Main Street, Suite 206
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
(P) 860-223-8412
(F) 860-827-9009
www.chrismurphy.house.gov/