



March 24, 2010

Dear Representative:

In a February 18, 2010 letter to the members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota voiced their support of the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program, and their concerns with the potential ending of the program on April 1, 2010. The Bishops stated, "we are gravely concerned that our neighbors with the greatest needs will suffer if they no longer have access to health care. As the Legislature continues working to restore GAMC, we urge Minnesota's lawmakers to support reform that not only guarantees accessible and quality care to our neighbors with the greatest needs, but does so in a way that safeguards human life and dignity. When we deny health care for any human person, we ignore their human dignity. And when we ignore their human dignity, we fail to recognize and value human life itself."

Our advocacy for health care for all reflects the Catholic social teaching that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and has a right to life and to those things necessary to sustain life, including affordable, quality health care. The continuation of the GAMC program while excluding coverage for abortion services upholds human life and dignity. The passage of Senate File 460 will preserve a program that annually provides basic health care for 77,000 of Minnesota's poorest and most vulnerable adults.

We urge your support of Senate File 460 and the continuation of the GAMC program.

Sincerely,

Chris Leifeld
Executive Director