



Health Care: Catholic Social Teaching & Public Policy

“Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. Any plan to reform the nation's health care system must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the unique needs of the poor. We support health care that is affordable and accessible to all.”

Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2000

“Besides wages, various social benefits intended to ensure the life and health of workers and their families play a part here. The expenses involved in health care, especially in the case of accidents at work, demand that medical assistance should be easily available for workers, and that as far as possible it should be cheap or even free of charge.”

On Human Work, *Laborem Exercens*, September 14, 1981,
Pope John Paul II



“Our nation's health care system still serves too few and costs too much. Decent health care is an essential safeguard of human life. We believe reform of the health care system must be rooted in values that respect the essential dignity of each person, ensure that human life is protected, and recognize the unique needs of the poor. Our criteria for reform include respect for life, priority concern for the poor, universal coverage, pluralism, cost containment and controls, and equitable financing.”

Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good, U.S. Catholic Conference, 1995

“We urge Catholics to fulfill their political responsibilities in the area of health care policy by re-educating themselves on the issues and by making their views known. Acting both individually and collectively through parishes, Catholic organizations and other appropriate networks, they can make a valuable contribution toward the development of a just and humane national health policy.”

Health & Health Care, U.S. Catholic Bishops, Nov. 19, 1981