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## **Health Care for Children**

The North Dakota House has defeated House Bill 1478, which would have expanded the Children's Health Insurance Program to 200% of the federal poverty level.

The effort, however, remains in House Bill 1012, the Department of Human Services appropriation bill. There is still time to express support for expanding SCHIP to both senators and representatives.

## **Learn More About Catholic Teaching on Health Care**

Why does the Church call health care a "basic right?" What principles should guide health care reform? Why is reform necessary from a Catholic perspective?

These are some questions we have recently received. Here are some resources to help familiarize yourself with Catholic teaching on health care:

[USCCB Health Care for All Campaign](#)

[Catholic Health Association Resources on Accessible and Affordable Health Care for Everyone](#)

## [Column for Cover the Uninsured Week](#)

Of course, it always beneficial to look at how health care relates to the fundamentals of Catholic social teaching. In that regard, the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) and the [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#) are essential.

### **U.S. Bishops Spokeswoman Objects to FDA Approval of "Morning-After Pill" for Minors without Prescription**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced late on April 22 that it has expanded over-the-counter access to the morning-after pill, Levonorgestrel or "Plan B," for 17-year-old minors as well as to adults. Deirdre McQuade, Assistant Director for Policy and Communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, objected to the move in the following statement:

"The FDA's court-driven decision to make Plan B available without a prescription to 17-year-old minors – as well as to adults – flies in the face of common sense. Levonorgestrel is a powerful drug, taken in two doses over a 12-hour period. It is 40 times more potent than comparable progestin-only birth control pills (Ovrette) for which a prescription is required. . . [Read more](#) . . .

### **Cardinal Rigali Praises House Re-Introduction of "Pregnant Women Support Act"**

Cardinal Rigali, chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), wrote to all U.S. Representatives urging them to co-sponsor the Pregnant Women Support Act (PWSA, H.R. 2035) re-introduced in the House by Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-TN) on April 22. The PWSA provides resources and support for pregnant and parenting women and their families.

"The Pregnant Women Support Act reaches out to women with a helping hand when they are most vulnerable, and most engaged in making a decision about life or death for their unborn children," Cardinal Rigali said.

The Cardinal said that the PWSA offers “an authentic common ground, an approach that people can embrace regardless of their position on other issues.”

“There are some statements that almost everyone can endorse. First, the fact that over a million abortions take place every year in this country is a tragedy, and we should at least take steps to reduce abortions,” said Cardinal Rigali.

“Second, no woman should ever have to undergo an abortion because she feels she has no other choice, or because alternatives were unavailable or not made known to her. An abortion performed under such social and economic duress meets no one’s standard for ‘freedom of choice’,” the Cardinal continued. [Read more](#) . . .

### **North Dakota Legislature: 105 in 7 days**

As of today the North Dakota legislature has 105 bills on which to finish work and only seven days to do it. Among those bills are the big spending bills, including the Department of Human Services appropriation bill (HB 1012). That bill provides crucial services to the most vulnerable and poor among us. In many ways, the ultimate test for the North Dakota legislature is how it handles House Bill 1012.

This e-newsletter was sent by the North Dakota Catholic Conference, 103 South Third Street, Suite 10, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501. 701-223-2519; 1-888-419-1237. <http://ndcatholic.org>

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