



December 8, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On December 7, U.S. Senators Ben Nelson (D-NE), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Robert Casey, Jr. (D-PA), submitted an amendment to the Senate version of H.R. 3590, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." This amendment, similar to the "Stupak Amendment" that received bipartisan support in the U.S. House and was approved, ensures that no citizen who opposes abortion will be forced to pay for other people's abortions in federally subsidized plans. This reflects longstanding present law that prohibits federal abortion funding. It does not prevent individuals from purchasing abortion coverage using private plans.

The U.S. Senate is scheduled to debate and vote on this issue as early as this week. We urge you to contact Senator Richard Burr and Senator Kay Hagan using the link provided at the bottom of this letter and ask them to vote in favor of the Nelson-Hatch-Casey Amendment.

We are most grateful for your assistance on this matter of grave importance.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

<http://actions.nchla.org/Core.aspx?AID=970&APP=GAC&IssueID=19513&SiteID=-1>