



OUR
VISION FOR *U.S.*

HEALTH
CARE

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES

'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion,
Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained
their sight and followed him.

M A T T H E W 2 0 : 3 3 - 3 4

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY
ENVISIONS A U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
DESIGNED TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN

A STRONG,
HEALTHY
NATIONAL
COMMUNITY.

Health care is fundamental to a healthy,
flourishing society – it is not a product or commodity.
When people have unmet health needs,
it is difficult for them to fully function as
members of their families, their workplaces or their schools,
which then affects the broader community and economy.

Learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17

CORE
—
VALUES

THE INJUSTICE OF MILLIONS
LACKING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
MUST BE REMEDIED. CATHOLIC VALUES
THAT ARE ECHOED IN THE BELIEFS
OF MANY FAITH COMMUNITIES
MAKE THE MORAL CASE FOR REFORM:

HUMAN DIGNITY

Because each person is created in the image of God, each life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth.

Health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual from conception to natural death.



CONCERN FOR THE POOR & VULNERABLE

The moral measure of society is how it treats the poor and vulnerable, who are particularly marginalized by a lack of access to health care.



JUSTICE

Health care is a basic human right alongside food and shelter, all of which are necessary for individuals to participate fully in society.

COMMON GOOD

The health and well-being of each person is intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community.

Access to health care is an essential element contributing to the common good alongside others such as education, employment and a safe environment.



STEWARDSHIP

Our societal resources are finite, and we must make wise choices for how they are allocated. Health care resources should focus on the well-being of the community and be structured to deliver the care that is most medically beneficial and promotes public health.



PLURALISM

The health care system should allow and encourage involvement of the public and private sectors including voluntary, religious and not-for-profit organizations, and it should respect the religious and ethical values of patients and health care providers alike.


THE CATHOLIC H
LOOKS FORWARD T
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EVERY

*WE BELIEVE TH
IN THE U.S.*



HEALTH MINISTRY
OF A HEALTH CARE
TRULY PROMOTES
THE WELL-BEING
AND THE DIGNITY OF
EVERY PERSON.

*AT HEALTH CARE
SHOULD BE...*



HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

AVAILABLE

A N D

ACCESSIBLE

TO EVERYONE,

*PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
THE POOR AND VULNERABLE*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

+ Ensure that each person has a core health benefit package covering services across the life span of care.

+ Deliver the same level and quality of care to everyone without limits or variations based on age; race; ethnicity; financial means; or health, immigration or employment status.

WE LIVE WITH AN INTOLERABLE INJUSTICE... *Forty-seven million people in the U.S. lack basic health insurance coverage – that is one in every seven of our friends and neighbors. More than 9 million children are uninsured, even though most live in a home where at least one parent works.*

(U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)



HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

HEALTH & PREVENTION

ORIENTED,

*WITH THE GOAL OF ENHANCING THE
HEALTH STATUS OF COMMUNITIES*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

+ Make preventive care a core part of health benefits in every community and develop provider and patient incentives that reward prevention.

+ Improve health literacy and education to help patients play a greater role in maintaining their own health and wellness.

OUR HEALTH IS AT STAKE... *More than half of U.S. children do not get a yearly dental check-up. Spending to treat high cholesterol in the U.S. increased 350 percent between 1996 and 2003.*

(AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY)

HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

SUFFICIENTLY

A N D

FAIRLY
FINANCED

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

+ Share the responsibility of financing among all stakeholders.

+ Care for those who cannot help themselves by having all stakeholders, including government, employers, individuals, charitable organizations and health care providers, collectively assume responsibility.

THE SYSTEM COULD BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE... One percent of Americans account for 22 percent of health care spending. The U.S. spends more per person on health care than any industrialized nation but still has millions uninsured.

(AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY, COMMONWEALTH FUND)



HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

TRANSPARENT
AND
CONSENSUS-DRIVEN

*IN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, AND
ORGANIZED FOR COST-EFFECTIVE CARE
AND ADMINISTRATION*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

+ Manage cost growth to promote affordability and sustainability; efficiently use facilities, equipment and services; minimize administrative expenses.

+ Spend resources on care that is most medically beneficial.

WE NEED THE PUBLIC WILL TO GET IT DONE... The cost of inaction is greater than the cost of reform, and the American public is demanding a real solution.



HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

P A T I E N T
C E N T E R E D

*AND DESIGNED TO ADDRESS HEALTH
NEEDS AT ALL STAGES OF LIFE,
FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

+ Ensure that services are coordinated and integrated all along the continuum of care – the system should be truly accountable for health outcomes.

+ Design palliative and end-of-life care to ensure the best and most compassionate treatment for persons with serious, complex diseases and those in the final stages of life.

EACH OF US DESERVES A RESPONSIVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER...

Many patients express frustration with their inability to participate in decision making, to obtain needed information, to be heard and to participate in systems of care that respond to their needs.

(INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE)

HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE

*SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND
DESIGNED TO DELIVER*

T H E

GREATEST POSSIBLE
QUALITY

T H E S Y S T E M S H O U L D

+ Standardize and expand the use of information technology to improve clinical coordination, reduce medical errors and improve the patient experience.

+ Use evidence-based medicine to optimize outcomes and quality; prioritize patient safety by minimizing the systemic causes of errors.

WE CAN DO BETTER... *A staggering 18,000 people in the U.S. die each year because they do not have health coverage and missed the medical services they needed.*

(INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE)

WHAT IS
CATHOLIC
HEALTH CARE?

- + Catholic health care is a ministry of the church continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. Catholic health care providers are rooted in the belief that every life is a sacred gift and every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.
- + Staffed by people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, Catholic health ministry organizations provide compassionate care and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to those who are poor, underserved and vulnerable.
- + In 2006, Catholic hospitals across the country contributed more than \$5.7 billion in services identified as community benefits – that is, services that provide treatment and promote health and healing in response to a community need.
- + Catholic health care serves all 50 states and the District of Columbia, employing more than 700,000 full- and part-time workers. More than 5.5 million patients were admitted to Catholic health facilities in 2005.

WHAT WILL THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY DO
TO MOVE REFORM
FORWARD?

- + Continue to lead and work in coalitions focused on creating a health care system that works for everyone and promotes the health of the national community.
- + Facilitate the Catholic health ministry's evaluation of health reform proposals.
- + Invite lawmakers and local leaders to participate in community dialogue on how best to approach systemic reform; engage the U.S. public in clarifying its vision for health care and facing the implications of values and priorities.

*Behold, I will treat and assuage the city's wounds;
I will heal them,
and reveal to them an abundance of lasting peace.*

J E R E M I A H 3 3 : 6



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OF THE UNITED STATES**

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