



# Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church

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We, the *Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church (ARCC)*, hereby state our unequivocal admiration for the decision of the *Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHAUSA)*, the *Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)*, and Network, who had the courage to publicly support the health-care reform bill brought forward and passed by the Obama administration.

At the same time, we express our strong disagreement with the vindictive reaction to that decision by certain prelates within the Catholic Church.

Contrary to the statement of these prelates, you have not stood "in defiance of the bishops as successors of the apostles," nor in open dissent from the authority of Rome and the church's teaching on life. Indeed, working in the frontlines of healthcare, you have remained faithful to safeguarding and promoting innocent and defenseless life over more years than any of today's prelates have been alive.

You women religious, and the Catholic Health Association, made it clear that you agreed with the bishops that there should be no expansion of funding for abortion, for you too, in full agreement with the bishops, see human life as inviolate.

We recognize that where you have stood in disagreement is in the political and legal sphere, i.e. in interpretation of the wording of a bill as drafted.

Some prelates have claimed the bill was "the most pro-abortion piece of legislation since *Roe v Wade*." You made it clear you disagreed not with the moral principles which undergirded the bishops' stance on the bill, but with the interpretation of what the bill actually states. There is a big difference.

In demanding you and the Catholic Health Association agree, without discussion and debate, not only with the moral principles to be adhered to (no disagreement there) but with the interpretation of a legislative text in the public sphere, the bishops have moved from proclaiming, fearlessly and without favor, the grounds of moral behavior, and on to determining what any person shall deem to be the political interpretation of any legislative text.

In admiration and support, we wish to place our resources at your disposal, to support you in living out your rights and responsibilities as Catholics.

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