

Friday dial: 1-888-885-1748

www.networklobby.org/Lent

Catholic Social Justice and Healthcare

As we embark on our Lenten journey of prayerful reflection on the principles of Catholic Social Justice, we recall the teachings and the witness of all who have worked for justice before us. As Pope John XXIII wrote in Pacem in Terris, and countless other faithful voices have cried out: Healthcare is a human right.

Uphold the dignity of each person as an equally valuable member of the human family.

We honor the dignity of each of our sisters and brothers when we provide for their needs, especially safe, accessible, affordable healthcare. Unfortunately, our economic and political systems too often deny that human right. Unfortunately, some in Congress plan to make healthcare even less accessible by repealing the Affordable Care Act without proposing a suitable replacement.

Embrace our right and responsibility to participate with others in our shared public life.

Called to participate in the shared public life of our nation, we actively seek the common good of our national community. As the Bible teaches, we are our sisters' and our brothers' keepers. By calling on Congress to work for affordable, accessible healthcare for all, we demonstrate our commitment to participation.

Be in solidarity with those who are living in poverty in the struggle against structures of injustice.

Jesus always reached out first to people who were most marginalized, teaching that our priority is to care for those in most need. When people of color, children, the elderly, or people in poverty consistently lack access to quality care, we are called to act and put their needs first. People without health coverage, or those that risk losing it, must be Congress' top concern as healthcare legislation is drafted and debated.

Bridge divisions, rising above individualism for the good of the whole community.

We exist in relationship with each other. When an individual is hurting, we all hurt. A just community provides for the good of the whole, ensuring that each person has the health services that they need to flourish. Additionally, protecting healthcare as a human right should not be a partisan issue. Congress must work for the health of the whole nation.

Unite with workers to build an economy that puts people, not profit, at the center.

Work enhances human dignity and contributes to the continued work of creation. When workers do not have healthcare for themselves or their families, it is impossible to participate in work that honors life and contributes to the common. Congress must support healthcare for workers because they contribute to our economy and our shared human life.

Nurture the Earth, recognizing that we are interdependent with the rest of God's creation.

There is a human cost of environmental degradation, which directly affects the health of individuals and communities. Because of this, it is more important than ever to promote investment in our communal health. Nurturing our common home and the health of all people must go in tandem, because doing one without the other will be ineffective in promoting health. Congress must care for both our Earth and our human family by supporting healthcare for all.



How to Take Action on Healthcare during Lent

Call Schedule:

When you call, our system will connect you to the office of the correct person (we will redirect all numbers each Monday morning). You will hear a brief recording from NETWORK before being connected.

Monday dial: 1-888-738-3058

(If you'd like, you can dial 1-888-897-9753 to talk to your Senators. Call twice to connect to both offices.)

Tuesday dial: **1-888-436-6478**

Wednesday dial: 1-888-422-4555

Thursday dial: 1-888-496-3502

Friday dial: 1-888-885-1748

Don't know who your Representative is? Our system will connect you automatically based on zip code, but you can also find out at www.networklobby.org/findyourrep

Sample Scripts for Making Your Calls

Calling your own Representative/Senator:

"Hi My name is [NAME] and I am a constituent from [CITY/TOWN]. As a member of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, I'm committed to calling you during Lent to urge the [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR] to not repeal the Affordable Care Act without a suitable replacement. Any replacement plan MUST include affordable insurance and the same benefits to all currently covered under the ACA and ensure reasonable revenue is in the federal budget to pay for life-sustaining healthcare for all. I also hope the replacement plan will fully expand Medicaid and will NOT restructure any of its funding. This is a core part of my faith belief, and I hope that the [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR] will agree with my view. What is the [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR's] stance?"

Feel free to change your message based on conversation from the week before, share a personal story, or include more reflection on Catholic Social Justice. If your elected officials agree with you, encourage them to stay strong!

Calling other elected officials:

"Hi, my name is [NAME]. As a member of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, I urge the Representative/Senator to not repeal the Affordable Care Act without a suitable replacement. Any replacement plan MUST include affordable insurance and the same benefits to all currently covered under the ACA and ensure reasonable revenue is in the federal budget to pay for life-sustaining healthcare for all. I also hope the replacement plan will fully expand Medicaid and will NOT restructure any of its funding. I hope the Representative's/Senator's Catholic faith will encourage them to support this position. Thank you."

NETWORK chose these 27 Catholic Senators and Representatives because they have all shown flexibility on their support of healthcare. They most need to hear our faithful message.

