

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While the Affordable Care Act is far from perfect law, we recognize that the U.S. Supreme Court ruling today upholding federal subsidies for private insurance coverage under the ACA will allow millions of Americans to continue to receive health care coverage.

The bishops of the United States have long advocated for expanded access to health care amongst the people, as we believe it is a basic human right. In this sense, we applauded efforts to enact federal health care reform in pursuit of that goal. At the same time, my brother bishops and I continue to oppose some elements of the Affordable Care Act that mandate the provision of contraception and abortifacients in health care plans. This defies Catholic belief in the dignity and worth of every life, and in the right of conscience for all those involved in the health care process.

Let us pray that the work of the government in this important area of health care is just, compassionate and reflects the dignity of every human person.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes