



Diocese of Salt Lake City

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The Peace and Justice Commission of the Diocese of Salt Lake City supports expanding health care coverage to include thousands of individuals who are currently unable to afford private insurance and don't qualify for Medicaid.

According to the Utah Department of Health, Governor Herbert's Healthy Utah plan or state expansion of Medicaid could provide basic health care to tens of thousands of parents and childless adults. Having Medicaid means low-income Utahns would be able to see a doctor before any health issues spiral out of control. Preventative care and early diagnosis means fewer emergency room visits which lowers health care costs for all of us.

Catholic support for expansion rests on our belief that it is the role of government to foster the common good, which includes ensuring that all have access to what is needed to lead a truly human life. As Pope Benedict affirmed in 2010, an individual's health is a "precious asset" to society that government should seek to protect by "dedicating the equipment, resources and energy so that the greatest number of people can have access."

The Catholic Church has long advocated for universal health care as a necessary requirement for preserving life and dignity, especially for the poor and immigrants who most often lack adequate care. All people need access to affordable, quality health care, regardless of where or whether they work, how much they earn, or where they live. A just health care policy will promote preventive care and early treatment for all, rather than leaving the working poor to wait until their health becomes a medical emergency.

The Utah Legislature and Governor Herbert work diligently to promote the common good of all Utahns. Expanding health care coverage to uninsured adults will produce economic, moral, and social benefits for the good of the state. Expansion also sends the powerful message that Utah protects and values human life.

Regards,

Jean Hill
Director