

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE REFORM IS AN URGENT MORAL PRIORITY



An Open Letter from the Faith Community to Senators Snowe and Collins

As faith leaders committed to human dignity and the common good, we believe it is a moral injustice that more than 125,000 people in the State of Maine, including nearly 19,000 children, have no health insurance coverage, are underinsured, denied, or simply defrauded through dropped policies. The most affluent nation in the world cannot accept the suffering of so many of its citizens at the hands of a broken health care system that supports the outlandish wealth of powerful special interests.



Sen. Olympia Snowe

Sen. Susan Collins

In Maine and across the country, health care reform is a topic of hot debate. Sadly, misinformation and fear have distorted this critical discussion and stood in the way of efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

We thank Senator Olympia Snowe for rising above the distortions and making a constructive contribution to the cause of health care reform. Her efforts to ensure that health care will be affordable to American families have been especially welcome.

We also call on Senator Susan Collins to do right by the people of Maine, and join the effort to mend this broken system.

This call is not about partisan politics or ideologies. Our faiths teach us that health care is a human right, not a privilege, and that in a just society we must love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore we stand with the Hebrew prophets who defended the poor, the widow and the stranger, and we heed Jesus' call to comfort the sick and to help those who are the 'least among us.'

Rev. Dr. William Barter

St. Ansgar Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Diane Bennekamper

Congregational Church

Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Congregation Beth-El (Conservative)

Rev. Marcia Charles

Shorey Chapel and New Sharon Congregational Church

Rev. Deborah Davis-Johnson

Immanuel Baptist Church

Senior Pastor Mark Allen Doty

Hammond Street Congressional Church

Revs. Sarah and Allen Ewing-Merril

Chestnut United Methodist Church & New Light

Deacon Craigen W. Healey

Shorey Chapel in Industry

Rev. Alice A. Hildebrand

First Cong. Church of Deer Isle and Sunset Congregational Church

Sr. Dale Jarvis, RSM

Rev. Gini King

United Church of Christ

Rev. Francis P. Morin

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Ruth Morrison

United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Allen C. Myers

West Brooksville Congregational Church

Pastor Rick Ness

Wales Presbyterian Church

Sr. Patricia Pora, RSM

Rev. Constantine Sarantidis

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Joseph Schad SJ

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Shambaugh,

Cathedral Church of St. Luke

Rev. Philip M. Tracy

St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church

* Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

