



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, March 19, 2010

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\*\*\* Media Release \*\*\*

## In Solidarity, Catholics Opposed to Current Senate Health Care Reform Legislation

"The Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC), the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan, along with OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group in Escanaba - offer their continued support for the position and statements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on federal health care reform.

"USCCB for several months, decades in fact, has supported efforts to provide health care access to all Americans. Most unfortunately, the Senate-passed health care reform bill must be opposed in its current form as it fails to uphold both conscience protections and the Hyde Amendment, which prevents federal funds from being used for abortion or health plans that cover abortion.

"MCC, and OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group join the USCCB in opposition to the Senate health care reform bill "unless and until" such concerns are alleviated."

Sister Monica Kostielney, R.S.M. President and CEO Michigan Catholic Conference

Mr. Peter G. Jennings President and CEO OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group