

Health Care Reform!

Yesterday, I and a group of ten other sisters (PATH to Justice Committee made up of 12 different communities here in the Pittsburgh area) went to visit our Representative in Congress (Jason Altmire). Sister Sandra DeNardis came with me from our community. We went to discuss two issues: Immigration Reform and Health Care Reform. Both of these systems are not doing well in our country. (Even though we knew that immigration reform is on the "back burner" due to the presence and need for the health care reform bill, we did have a discussion with Rep. Altmire about the need for a *comprehensive* immigration reform bill.)

Many people in this country cannot afford good health insurance or have no insurance at all. (We are only one of two industrialized nations that do not have universal health care for its citizens.) President Barak Obama proposed a broad outline for Health Care Reform in this country. He didn't get into the specifics of each item because he said he would leave it up to the Congress to work out/hammer out the details. However, a campaign was begun to "Just say NO" to the proposal before an explanation/discussion/dialogue could take place. There has been misinformation and some untruths about what is being proposed. At several recent town hall meetings across the country people were engaged in shouting matches instead of listening to one another. Consequently, there was a lot of heat and misinformation but very little "light" that was shed on the proposal for health care reform that took place in those town meetings this past month.

We spoke to Rep. Altmire about the millions of poor in our country who do not have any health insurance, about insurance companies that drop clients if they get seriously ill, about doctors who require multiple tests because they are fearful of being sued, among other things.

He seemed very interested in what we had to say. He then told us that he is hearing mainly from people who oppose health care reform. He wants to hear from groups like ours that present a good case for reform.

(You can Google NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby or Catholic Charities USA or U.S. Catholic Bishops for more information on Heath Care Reform.)

Please call or email your representative/senator.....They are not hearing from those who believe we need a good bill on health care reform.

Jason Altmire - 724-378-0928 www.altmire.house.gov
John Murtha * 814-535-2642 www.house.gov/murtha
Mike Doyle * 412-261-5091 rep.doyle@mail.house.gov
Tim Murphy * 412-344-5583 murphy@mail.house.gov

Just tell whoever answers the phone that you want the representative/senator to work on health care reform which will benefit the millions of uninsured in our country. (If you want to get specific, go to the web sites listed at the end of this email.)

Thanks, Sister Betty