



**Statement from
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
2013 Legislative Session**

Regarding the provision of affordable healthcare and the dignity of all persons

The Diocese of Sioux Falls, reflecting the teaching of the Catholic Church, has and will continue to affirm that access to adequate and affordable health care is fundamental to assuring respect for life and the dignity of every person from conception to natural death. Developing policies at the national and state level to achieve this principled goal is properly left to the laity with expertise in this complicated field and to the legislative and political process.

We remain mindful that in recent times health care legislation and regulations have been used to limit religious liberty, restrict freedom of conscience and put at risk the unborn and the vulnerable whatever their age. As a result the diocese will exercise the virtue of prudence and monitor individual bills and offer counsel to legislators as appropriate.