



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

Ask Your Elected Officials to Stop Dangerous Cuts to Health Care

February 4, 2009

**Tell your legislators not to balance the budget
by cutting health programs for those in poverty.**

Background:

In times of economic crisis, it is essential to offer families and individuals the supports they need to stay healthy and safe. Unfortunately, Governor Pawlenty's budget proposal does exactly the opposite. Of the \$2.5 billion in cuts the Governor proposed to balance Minnesota's budget shortfall, \$1.3 billion come from the Health and Human Services budget, meaning dangerous cuts to health care programs that serve those in poverty.

According to estimates released by the Minnesota Budget Project, Governor Pawlenty's budget proposes to eliminate public health insurance (MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance, and General Assistance Medical Care) for 113,615 Minnesotans, including 26,399 children. The Governor also eliminates adult dental coverage, reduces services for people with disabilities, and proposes deep cuts in the rates paid to health care service providers.

When thousands of our fellow Minnesotans are denied access to health care, or when people suffer the consequences of delayed or inadequate health care because they have no insurance, we fail in our duty to safeguard the human dignity of our neighbors. We also endanger the health of everyone in our community. The dignity of human beings and our mutual obligation to one another require community structures that ensure health care be available, accessible, and affordable to everyone.

Denying insurance coverage to 113,000 Minnesotans is inhumane, costly, and moves us further from the health care reforms our state requires.

Recommended Action:

Please call write your State Representative and Senator. Let them know cutting people from health care programs is an unacceptable way to balance the budget.

- Find your State Representative & Senator info by calling (651) 296-2146, or by visiting www.gis.leg.mn/mapserver/districts/

For more information:

Adam Robinson at (651) 291-4536 - robinsona@archspm.org