



**Sowers of Justice**

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action  
Alert**

***Ask Your Legislators and  
Governor Pawlenty to Protect  
MNCare!***

**March 10, 2008**

**Background:**

Minnesota is facing a projected \$935 million dollar deficit for the next year and a half. Tough decisions will be made this session, and it is imperative that the faith community stands in solidarity with struggling Minnesotans as our budget priorities are being set.

Governor Pawlenty released his proposed budget last Friday, which includes cutting \$250 million from health care for low-income, working Minnesotans.

The Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) was created to increase access to MinnesotaCare (MnCare), which serves the working poor. It is funded primarily by a 2% provider tax (doctors, hospitals and other health care providers), as well as premium payments by MN Care recipients.

The MN Medical Association, whose *members pay the majority of this tax*, stated that “at a time when Minnesota’s uninsured rate is increasing we do not want to see the HCAF diverted away from its intended purpose.”

Health & Human Services funding is still recovering from the 2003 cuts. Our standing as a national leader on poverty reduction has been shaken as tax cuts and budget priorities have shifted our focus away from proven anti-poverty initiatives.

Proposed cuts would roll back the modest progress we made last year in expanding coverage, as well as cut outreach dollars to help enroll working Minnesotans who are currently eligible yet remain uninsured.

**Recommended Action:**

Call your State Senator, Representative and Governor Pawlenty to tell them that you are against balancing the budget by cutting health care to the uninsured.  
Ask them to protect the Health Care Access Fund.

Logon onto: <http://geo.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/districts/start.html>

Contact Governor Pawlenty at: [tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us](mailto:tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us)

651-296-3391 or

**Please make these three calls today!**

*FFI: Contact Patrick Ness at 651-291-4484*