

# USCCB says no

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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It's official: the Catholic bishops have [come out against the health-care bill](#).

This despite the fact that [neither their argument](#) (that the current version of the bill fails to uphold the abortion-funding status quo ) [nor their characterization](#) of this status quo as “exclud[ing] abortion from all health insurance plans receiving federal subsidies” happens to be entirely *true*, or the fact that universal health care would [do a lot to protect the unborn](#), to say nothing of the born.

Meanwhile, [there is high drama](#) in the (always titillating!) world of congressional procedural strategy. I haven't taken a personal day to sit home and watch C-SPAN since the 2000 election—actually, back then I was skipping class, not work—but this might be the week.

UPDATE: Thanks to commenter [PS\(anafter-thought\)](#), who pointed out something I missed earlier today: leaders representing [59,000 Catholic sisters](#) have joined the [Catholic Health Association](#) in opposing the bishops and supporting reform. Meanwhile, [Rep. Bart Stupak](#) is [losing allies](#) among anti-abortion Catholic Democrats in the House.