Christ centered care.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CatholicHealthAlliance.org

MISSION

The mission of the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance (CHCLA) is to support the rights of patients and professionals to receive and provide health care in accordance with the moral, ethical, and social teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church through evangelization, education, advocacy, and mutual support.

VISION

The Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance is dedicated to renewing Catholic health care in harmony with the healing ministry of Christ and His Church.

The time is ripe to bring together the greatest minds from medicine, law, business and theology under the guidance and support of our Bishops, to formulate the very best models for Catholic healthcare - models that are sustainable and replicable. Now is the time to rise up, inspired by the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother, to create entirely new approaches that will not only bring faithful medicine to our people, but bring our people to a deeper relationship with God"

The Most Reverend James D. Conley

Chair of the Episcopal Advisory Board of CHCLA
Bishop of Lincoln, NE

A letter from the PRESIDENT

Steven White, M.D.
Catholic Medical Association Representative on
the USCCB sub-committee on Health Care Issues

Friends in Christ,

There is an ongoing crisis in health care in America!

We frequently hear about the social and economic problems related to cost, quality and access, but the most serious, yet understated element of the crisis is ethical. There has been a virtual eclipse of the most fundamental ethical principles undergirding the medical profession for over two millennia including the sanctity of life, the dignity of the human person and medical rights of conscience. This situation poses an existential threat to Catholic health care in particular and has created an urgent need for a clear, strong united voice to promote and defend the Catholic Church's longstanding tradition of health care in this country.

Recognizing this urgent need, in January 2022 during the March for Life, the Catholic Medical Association, the Catholic Bar Association, the Catholic Benefits Association, the Christ Medicus Foundation, the National Catholic Bioethics Center and the Franciscan Health Alliance launched the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance (CHCLA) with the support of an Episcopal Advisory Board led by Bishop James Conley.

Building a coalition of Catholic leaders and organizations with expertise in all facets of medical care and health care delivery including – medicine, law, bioethics and theology, administration, financing, pastoral care, health care policy and politics – will enable the CHCLA to promote the truth of the Catholic Faith as it relates to both the science and practice of medicine. In addition, the Alliance will provide a strong defense of the rights of patients to receive, and medical professionals and institutions to deliver, medical care in conformity with Catholic moral, ethical and social teachings.

There has been a tragic, decades long decline in health care in America. We must unite as the Body of Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, to restore a culture of life and love to the vocation of medicine and in the words of Bishop Conley, "not only bring faithful medicine to our people, but bring our people to a deeper relationship with God." We hope that you will join with us in this call to support the renewal of health care in America and beyond.

God Bless,

R. Steven White, MD

Steven White, MD
President, CHCLA

JOIN THE MISSION

The Core Principles of the CHCLA

Evangelization

Evangelization is one of the core principles of the CHCLA. Today, Catholic health care professionals are called to participate in Christ's healing mission and by doing so, evangelize their patients and peers. By treating patients with dignity and respect, both for the body and soul, health care professionals bear witness to the value and inviolable dignity of each person, who is created in God's image and likeness. Hospitals are a unique mission field, and CHCLA supports the rights of health care professionals to work in such a way as to grow in Christian virtue and share their faith without fear.

Education

Those involved in health care are often inundated by competing and conflicting voices of information. It is a part of the missions of CHCLA's member organizations to educate those in the disciplines of medicine, ethics, and law on how the truths of the Gospel and Church teaching impact their professions. Through collaborative efforts, the CHCLA draws on the different perspectives and knowledge of these organizations and others to create educational resources that equips those who work in Catholic health care to become leaders in service of the Church.

Advocacy

The CHCLA advocates for initiatives that promote the moral and social doctrines of the Church. These policies are based on principles such as solidarity, subsidiarity, truth, freedom, and charity. By advocating for and achieving reforms in health care, Catholic health care is poised to bring about a spiritual and cultural revolution. Historically, Catholic hospitals were imbued with a sense of reverence, not only for the Eucharistic Christ in their chapels but also for the patients entrusted to their care, especially for poor and vulnerable people. This set Catholic hospitals apart and provided for their success. A Catholic hospital was not a hub of technocratic bureaucracy but a place of healing for the whole person, body and soul.

Mutual Support

The CHCLA was established as a collaborative response of faithful Catholics to the political, regulatory, financial, and organizational pressures that cause confusion and threaten the practice of Catholic healthcare. The founding members are the Catholic Medical Association, the National Bioethics Center, the Catholic Benefits Association, the Christ Medicus Foundation, and the Catholic Bar Association. United in purpose, yet diverse in strength and expertise, the CHCLA relies on the mutual support of its members to provide much-needed integrity, unity, and leadership in the world of health care. The CHCLA is a center for patients and professionals to find the support they need to fully live out their Catholic identity.

STATEMENT of PURPOSE

Catholic health care needs a united voice, and the time is now. Catholic health care in America has a robust history rooted in the healing ministry of Christ, encouraging professionalism of the highest degree, selfless volunteerism and charitable care bolstered by strong religious commitments and investments. However, today the practice of Christ-centered medicine is under severe assault by secular and materialistic ideals that challenge the foundational Christian principles of the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in its Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, have provided authoritative guidance to protect the vision and mission of the Church's health care ministry. Unfortunately, until now there has been no effective organized alliance of faithful Catholic lay organizations to support and defend authentic Catholic health care from the present assault.

Paradoxically, this assault has come about as part of the pursuit of a noble ideal—to assure that everyone in America has access to health insurance and health care. However, government and corporate programs that finance and direct health care delivery for the majority of Americans are guided by secular goals, not the time-honored Catholic principles respecting the sanctity of each human life and the covenantal character of the patient–physician relationship. These secular programs have led to many legislative and regulatory measures that threaten the religious freedom of these institutions and the consciences of health care providers.

The materialistic nature of our culture disregards the Christian understanding of the dignity of every human person, from conception to natural death. The secularization of society and the industrialization of the health sector are challenging and undermining the foundational principles of Catholic health care, which is focused on healing the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. Instead, in a secular view of health care, we see abortion, contraception, euthanasia, transgender procedures and other interventions that contradict the foundations of faith-filled medical practice anchored in truth, life, and love.

Our American culture is in need of transformation! We need a culture that respects and protects foundational values, and primary among these values are the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person. Without a fundamental change in the underlying principles and policies that drive the current secular health system, Catholics, Christians, and millions of others who value truth, life, and freedom will be increasingly marginalized. They will be constantly on the defensive in trying to cope with notions of health care which contradict both good morals and good medicine.

The challenge we face today in assuring that health care delivery and financing conform with Catholic moral and social teachings is enormous. Catholic institutions face the pressure of compromising their sacred mission and principles in order to maintain their financial viability. These challenges often involve pressures from secular entities to engage in practices which are deemed "essential" in the secular marketplace but which are contrary to the Church's teachings. We must renew our commitment to continue the ministry of healing in accord with the mind of Christ and practiced by His faithful for two millennia.

The Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance is committed to rediscovering traditions anchored in Scripture, restoring a Christ-centered appreciation of human dignity, and renewing Catholic health care in accord with these traditions and this appreciation. Religious communities of sisters and brothers have built the structure over centuries to deliver Christ-centered health care as a central mission of the Church. We, who now stand on the foundation laid by these communities, have a moral and ethical responsibility to uphold the principles that undergird Catholic health care. We must renew this sacred tradition and help assure that the healing ministry of Christ and upholding the truths of our Faith in the science and practice of the vocation of medicine are not lost in these desperate times.

The practice of medicine and healing the sick must never be separated from the infinitely kind and merciful guidance of Jesus Christ who travelled throughout Galilee "healing every disease and every sickness among the people" (Mt 4:23). The Church has always, as Christ taught us, paid preferential attention to the sick and vulnerable. All of those who stand with us must recognize that, for our mission to continue, we must not stray from Catholic principles—as individual physicians and as large institutions. That is the mission our work must renew.

FOUNDING Organizations

The Alliance is an interdisciplinary effort, founded by the Catholic Medical Association, the National Catholic Bioethics Center, the Catholic Benefits Association, Catholic Bar Association and the Christ Medicus Foundation.

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) is the largest association of Catholic individuals in health care. It helps its membership grow in faith, maintain ethical integrity, and provide excellent health care in accordance with the teachings of the Church. It strengthens its membership through education and fellowship. The CMA hosts an annual educational conference, publishes The Linacre Quarterly, and advocates for Catholic medical professionals in public forums. The CMA helps support regional guilds, which provide service to the local Church, community, and peers in health care.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) responds to ethical challenges in health care and the life sciences by promoting Catholic moral and social teachings. Through education, guidance, and publications, it promotes human dignity and supports health care professionals. The NCBC educational efforts instruct clergy, religious, and laity through workshops, seminars, and certification programs. The NCBC publishes a newsletter, Ethics and Medics, and the National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly journal. Additionally, it engages in public policy initiatives related to ethical issues by issuing position papers and *amicus* briefs in court cases.

The Catholic Benefits Association protects the conscience rights of Catholic employers who conduct business and provide benefits in a manner that is consistent with their sincerely held religious beliefs. It provides guidance for members to strengthen their Catholic identity in the workplace, and when necessary, the Catholic Benefits Association engages in legal advocacy. It helps optimize the Catholic employment experience. The Catholic Benefits Association delivers comprehensive Human Resource services that help enact policies that promote a Catholic culture. By engaging with industry leaders in the Catholic community, it offers morally compliant and competitively priced employee benefits.

The Catholic Bar Association is a community of legal professionals that educates, organizes, and inspires its members to faithfully uphold and bear witness to the Catholic faith in the study and practice of law. By articulating Catholic legal principles at a national level, the Catholic Bar Association assists the Church in not only evangelizing the legal profession but also society at large. It has local chapters throughout the country. These chapters provide networking and educational opportunities for Catholic lawyers who seek to integrate Catholic teachings into their practice of law. By working through its chapters, the Catholic Bar Association is also able to evangelize and help provide benefits to the Church, such as pro bono services and red Mass promotions.

The Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) defends religious liberty and helps provide for Christ-centered health care options. It protects the rights of patients to have Catholic health care that does not compromise their religious beliefs. CMF achieves this mission through public policy, education, and empowering health care providers. CMF founded the first fully operational Catholic health sharing option, CMF CURO in 2014 to provide Catholics with an affordable, moral, health care alternative to some traditional insurance plans. CMF collaborates with primary care centers and other pro-life medical providers throughout the country to help increase access to quality care and strengthen Catholic health care communities.

Board of DIRECTORS

The Most Reverend James D. Conley
Chair of the Episcopal Advisory Board of CHCLA;
Bishop of Lincoln, NE

This Alliance brings together the best minds in medicine, law, business, and theology. I look forward to working with CHCLA and my brother Bishops to guide and support CHCLA in this important work that will not only bring faithful medicine to our people, but bring our people to a deeper relationship with God.

Steven White, M.D. | President
Catholic Medical Association
Representative on the USCCB sub-committee on Health Care Issues

In order to uphold the truth of the Catholic faith in the practice of medicine there is an urgent need for a clear, strong, and united voice to promote and defend medical care practiced in harmony with the mind of Christ and the long-standing tradition of His Church.

Joshua M. McCaig, J.D., M.S.
Founding President of the Catholic Bar Association

It is imperative that the dignity of those called to serve the sick is protected and defended so they may practice their profession in accordance with their conscience, their faith and their beliefs, as well as for patients who seek out professionals who share the faith and expect treatment options consistent with their beliefs and values.

Joseph Meaney, Ph.D., K.M.
President of the National Catholic Bioethics Center

The CHCLA comes at a providential time when ethical challenges in health care are growing, and it gives a voice to many organizations and individuals who strongly support Catholic values in health care, by having an alliance of national organizations to represent them.

Louis Brown, J.D., K.M.
Executive Director of the Christ Medicus Foundation

Catholic health care exists to bring patients health and through the love and care they receive to share with them the fullness of healing in Jesus Christ.

Douglas G. Wilson, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Benefits Association

This Alliance will empower individual health care professionals, small clinics, and hospital systems alike, to advance Catholic values in health care that protect human dignity.

EPISCOPAL ADVISORY Board Members

His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Denver, Colorado

Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, California

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Most Reverend Michael C. Barber
Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, California

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan

Most Reverend Liam Cary
Bishop of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon

Most Reverend James D. Conley
Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

Most Reverend John T. Folda
Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota

Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki
Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio

Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa
Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California

Most Reverend James S. Wall
Bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico

IN THE NEWS

Published in
National Catholic Register,
First Things, The Federalist
& The Hill

EWTN Nightly News
with Tracy Sabol

Catholic Connection
with Teresa Tomeo

Catholic Current with
Fr. Robert McTeigue

Quoted in Catholic News Services
and Catholic News Agency

Drew Mariani Show

GALEN INSTITUTE

The CHCLA is a vital organization whose goal is to provide a stronger, more unified voice for the Catholic health care community in protecting the dignity and sanctity of life. Too often, the interests of individual organizations that helped found the CHCLA have been eclipsed by others. With threats to Catholic health care on the rise, it is essential to guard religious freedom in all health care decisions, especially in protecting the most vulnerable. The individual organizations working together through the CHCLA can be more effective and have a stronger voice to assure that health care conforms to the moral, ethical, and social teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church.

- Grace-Marie Turner

CHCLA's Amicus Brief Mentioned by Court

CHCLA led an effort to file an Amicus Brief in the Texas v. Becerra case involving the Biden Administration's attempt to force health care providers to perform abortions under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). CHCLA submitted a brief to the Texas Court arguing that the language of EMTALA protects unborn children and would preclude intentional abortions as a treatment option, which is contrary to the position taken by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Texas Court cited CHCLA's brief in it's opinion that ruled in favor of the State of Texas and against the federal government, protecting conscience rights of health care providers. Importantly, CHCLA was able to respond quickly to a need and build a coalition of organizations to sign onto the brief, showing the role CHCLA plays in protecting Catholic Health Care.

We are in the midst of a lot of challenges to Catholic Health Care and are at a critical point where the attacks are happening frequently, and health care providers and hospitals are having to respond quickly to all of these challenges. There needs to be a voice for Catholic health care and this is one of the primary reasons that the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance was founded.

Joshua McCaig | Catholic Connection

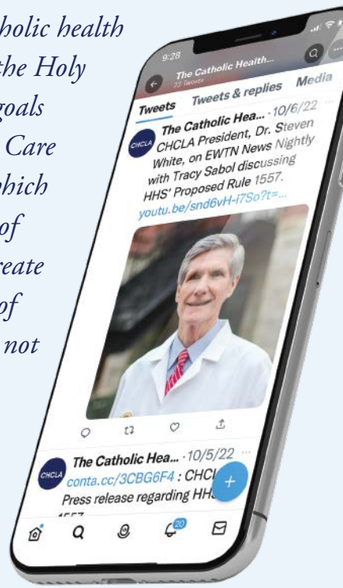
EWTN News

EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS

CHCLA is comprised of experts in all facets of health care and is regularly sought out to participate in discussion on the most relevant issues in the news cycle. CHCLA is uniquely positions to comment on health care from all sides, including the medical, legal, ethical, theological, and health care policy.

We believe that in Catholic health care we are guided by the Holy Spirit, and one of the goals of the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance, which is truly an inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is to create a vision for the future of Catholic Health Care, not only for Catholics but for all people of faith, and for all people who are interested in the highest quality of medical care.

Steven White, M.D.



Building a lasting impact through through Advocacy, Education, Evangelization, and Mutual Support

The Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance is dedicated to advancing Catholic Health Care so future generations have an opportunity to experience Christ's healing ministry through Catholic health care providers and hospitals. CHCLA works tirelessly to ensure that Catholic health care endures and thrives, being ever vigilant against attacks on Catholic health care, but also working to build a community through which education, support, and evangelization takes place so that all may encounter Jesus Christ in a new way, in particular, the sick and suffering, who may find hope in the light of faith through the work of Catholic health care.

INSTITUTE for PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The CHCLA Institute for Public Policy and Advocacy focuses on advancing the fundamental principles of Catholic health care through educating legislators at the national and state levels, while also analyzing and drafting potential legislation that comports with the ethical teachings of the Catholic Church. In particular, the Institute works to protect and defend the conscience rights and religious freedoms of all Catholic health care providers through building coalitions, advocating for faith based protections, and educating society on the value of Catholic health care.

CENTER for the SUPPORT of the CATHOLIC HEALING MINISTRY

The CHCLA Center for the Support of the Catholic Healing Ministry is a community for those engaged in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to find support and build relationships in this shared mission. The Center focuses on creating resources for CHCLA members, including educational opportunities, spiritual enrichment, shared databases for health care related documents, networking opportunities, job connections, and regular remote meetings to discuss CHCLA updates. In addition to being a place for resources to assist CHCLA members in the practice of Christ centered care, the Center will also work to provide benefits to CHCLA members through partner organizations and affiliates.

SYMPOSIUM for the ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE

The CHCLA Symposium for the Advancement of Catholic Health Care is a three year initiative devoted to scholarly research preparing a vision for the future of Catholic health care. Calling upon experts in the field of medicine, law, bioethics, hospital administration, policy, theology, and others, the Symposium will evaluate the current state of Catholic health care, identify and analyze issues, and propose solutions to not only firm the foundation of Catholic health care but what needs to happen to make it thrive in the future. The Symposium will partner with various academic universities to hold both in-person and virtual events and the papers presented during the Symposium will be collected and published into a compendium.

> *The new evangelization is very much tied up with entering a new missionary age, which will become a radiant day bearing an abundant harvest, if all Christians...respond with generosity and holiness to the calls and challenges of our time"*
>
> **Redemptoris Missio**

WHO ARE CHCLA Members?

Health Systems, Hospitals, Practice Groups, Clinics, Physicians, Nurses, Health Care Professionals, Administrators, Educators, Friends and Allied Organizations.

Sr. Jane Marie Klein O.S.F.
Chairwoman of the Board of Franciscan Alliance

Franciscan Health (Franciscan Alliance), is a Catholic healthcare system that operates 12 hospitals in Indiana and Illinois, and employs over 18,000 full and part time employees.

Our sacred obligation to attest to and uphold the moral teachings of the Church concerning the sanctity of life throughout its natural progression from conception until natural death is being challenged by those who wish to secularize all health care providers. CHCLA is being formed to be a beacon of light and truth, an organization that will defend the right of faith-based providers to deliver care in concert with their religious beliefs.

Member BENEFITS

1. Being a part of an active community of likeminded individuals who share a common goal of advancing Catholic Health Care.
2. Being a recognized leader in advancing Catholic Health Care through the initiatives of the CHCLA.
3. Being a part of a larger voice for Catholic Health Care, a voice that represents all Catholic health care providers, through advocacy at the highest levels of federal, state and local government.
4. Having an active role and voice in the strategy of Catholic Health Care in the United States and abroad, and the trajectory of the CHCLA.
5. Having access to a broad network of professionals in various areas related to health care, including medicine, law, business, academia, insurance, advocacy, and experts on specific health care topics.
6. Having access to educational material, papers, reports and academic insights on Catholic Health Care and the health care delivery system, through courses, podcasts, publications and both live and remote events.
7. Having access to advocacy organizations and receiving updates on advocacy initiatives, pending and anticipated lawsuits, and the impact of legislation and legal cases on Catholic Health Care.

ALLIED MEMBERS:

Individual Catholic Health Care Professional
For Individual Catholic Health Care Professionals who are practicing Catholics and are actively practicing in the field of health care, such as physicians, nurses, or specialists.

Individual Catholic Health Care Administrator
For Individual Catholic Health Care Administrators who are practicing Catholics and are involved in administration at any health care facility or system.

Retired Individual Catholic Health Care Professional or Administrator
For Retired Individual Catholic Health Care Professionals or Administrators who are practicing Catholics and are no longer practicing in the field of health care. It may include retired physicians, nurses, specialists, or administrators.

Individual Catholic Health Care Student
For Individual Catholic Health Care Students in a pre-medical program, medical school, or residency program who are practicing Catholics.

Health Care Practice Group
For Health Care Practice Groups of 2 to 20 employees with a specialized practice whose practice agrees to comply with the Ethical and Religious Directives and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Health Care Organization
For Catholic Health Care Organizations including any individual hospital, clinic, laboratory, research group, nursing home, or other health care related entity, who agrees to comply with the Ethical and Religious Directives and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Health Care Systems
For Catholic Health Care Systems including any organization comprised of multiple health care facilities who collectively agree to comply with the Ethical and Religious Directives and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Supporting the mission

The Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit devoted to defending and advancing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. CHCLA relies solely on dues received from its members and donations from partners in this mission to ensure that Catholic health care not only continues but thrives. There are countless forces attacking Catholic health care, seeking to diminish the influence of the Catholic moral and ethical tradition in the healing ministry, and destroy the dignity of the human person in the delivery of medicine. The members of CHCLA are committed to bringing a witness to Catholic health care, to the teaching of the Catholic faith, and to the truth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please consider partnering with us in this mission!

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Non-Profit Organizations
For Non-Profit Organizations that are supportive of the mission of CHCLA and desire to partner with the work of CHCLA.

Friends of CHCLA
Anyone who does not meet the membership requirements of an allied member but supports the mission of CHCLA.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

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