



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

Three Action Items for You to Save GAMC

February 25, 2010

Background:

General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) offers health care coverage to the poorest adults in the state of Minnesota. The Governor eliminated funding for the program last spring with a line item veto and further reduced funding with unallotments. Without action by the legislature, GAMC expires April 1, 2010. The House and Senate both passed a GAMC reform bill, and on Thursday, February 18th, the Governor issued a veto.

Highlights of GAMC Bill (SF2168):

- ◆ Reduces costs. This bill cuts costs by \$219 million for the next 16 months of the program.
- ◆ Reforms the program: This bill eliminates layers between the health care provider and the patient and encourages new, local collaborations to better manage the health conditions of the many chronically ill Minnesotans who rely on GAMC.
- ◆ Provides health coverage for 85,000 people. The Governor's proposal would cover only 28,000 people.
- ◆ Saves jobs. Hospitals across the state are preparing to cut hundreds of jobs if this legislation does not pass.
- ◆ Does not rely on any tax increases.
- ◆ Does not bankrupt MinnesotaCare or potentially end health care for 21,000 working families as the administration's solution would do.

*The nine "no" votes in the House: Anderson, B., Buesgens, Drazkowski, Emmer, Hackbarth, Holberg, Kohls, Severson, Shimanski.

Recommended Action:

We need you to act NOW to SAVE GAMC. We expect the House to attempt a veto override this Monday, March 1st.

First Action: Call or email Your Minnesota State Representative through this weekend. Visit: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/Districtfinder.asp> to find your state representative or call (800) 657-3550.

- ◆ Thank state representatives for their vote to save GAMC (if your member was one of the nine "no" votes*, you can tell them of your disappointment).
- ◆ Ask your Representative to vote yes again. Let them know that this issue **should not be partisan** and that **their previous vote on the merits of the bill should stand**. We need problem-solving, not partisanship.

Second Action: Visit www.jrlc.org to Sign on to JRLC's Interfaith Statement to Save GAMC.

Third Action: Join us at the State Capitol for an interfaith vigil on Monday, March 1st, prior to the House vote. Gather at 12:30 p.m. outside the House Chamber. We will be respectful, solemn, hopeful, and encourage House members to **VOTE YES AGAIN** to protect Minnesota's poorest and most vulnerable adults.

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