



PRESS ADVISORY

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Religious leaders stand with immigrants to ask for restoration of health coverage

Call the elimination of coverage unjust

(BOSTON, MA) – Legally present immigrants will gather with key religious leaders at the State House to urge the legislature to restore health care benefits for 10,000 adults. These individuals, including working parents, the elderly and adults with disabilities, lost health coverage on August 1 as a result of cuts in the FY 04 budget.

All 10,000 adults are lawful, tax-paying residents of the Commonwealth and include immigrants fleeing persecution in their home countries, immigrants with permission to live in the US because conditions are unsafe in their home countries, as well as certain legal permanent residents who will not be eligible for federal benefits until five years from receiving legal permanent status.

Advocates have heard about the grave conditions of these immigrants who, without health coverage, must now cope with unmet medical needs including cancer treatment, heart disease medication, and mental health and psychiatric treatments. The denial of health coverage will force these adults to either seek more costly care in hospital emergency rooms or simply forego health care altogether.

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.
Who: Dr. Joseph Doolin, President, Catholic Charities
Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Jewish Community Relations Council
Rev. Jill Wiley, Council of Churches
Dr. David Bor, Chief of Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance
Ruth Ratchowski, RN, Boston Community Medical Group
Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford)
Sen. Thomas McGee (D-Lynn)
Rep. Antonio Cabral (D-New Bedford)
Rep. Gene O’Flaherty (D-Chelsea)
What: Press Conference
Where: State House, Room A-1

