

Michigan Catholic Conference



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December 14, 1995

Dear :

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Catholic Conference wish to applaud legislative efforts, both federal and state, to reform our present welfare system. As you know, Catholic social service agencies, in Michigan and across the country, have a long history of successfully moving people from welfare to work.

As you continue your deliberations on the federal welfare bill, there are some basic human concerns to consider. Extreme care needs to be taken not to forget, in this new self-sufficient environment, that there are some among us who will never be able to achieve complete self-sufficiency and will continue to need support from society.

We are particularly mindful of the needs of children. The MCC has been very clear on its opposition to family cap measures and time limit in regard to welfare recipients. The Catholic bishops believe children should not suffer because they are born into a family receiving welfare. The Michigan State Legislature has already passed welfare reform that does not include these punitive measures. Federal guidelines under consideration restricting nutrition programs and child protection are also crucial to the well-being of millions of children across the country.

We ask that you give thoughtful consideration to these issues as debate continues. Enclosed for your review is the MCC "Statement on Welfare Reform."

Thank you for all you do and best wishes for the coming holiday season.

Sincerely,

Adam Cardinal Maida, Chairman
Board of Directors

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