Feb. 16, 2011

Members of the Committee:

Last year Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), a law which Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and other pro-life organizations opposed because of its exclusion of reasonable protections for our nation’s most vulnerable citizens, including the unborn, persons with disabilities and elderly persons.

Despite our opposition, the PPACA has become law and while our opposition to the PPACA remains, MCCL believes that it is vitally important to continue our efforts to protect our state’s most vulnerable citizens, even within the confines of this deeply flawed law.

For that reason, MCCL supports efforts by Minnesota lawmakers to enact some form of the health insurance exchange that will be required by the PPACA. We firmly believe that an exchange created by our state, for our state, will be immensely better than one imposed on us by the federal government.

While the bill before the committee today is not exactly how MCCL would write one, we believe it is a strong step in the right direction. Additionally, MCCL has been working with the author to improve this legislation, and that work will continue after today.

MCCL urges members of the committee to move this legislation forward, and we appreciate all of the efforts to undertake this task that has been forced upon us.