

## Our Values: Health Care for All

*The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights. Together, we will ensure that quality health care and nutrition are treated as fundamental human freedoms for all of us, no matter the color of our skin, how much money we have, or where we live.*

### Expand health care for all and end the injustice of medical debt

- Current Reality**
- Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy for all people in the U.S.—Black, Brown, and white.
  - 13% of U.S. adults—and one in five people of color—know a friend or family member who died because they could not pay for needed medical care.
  - Some politicians choose to protect the profits of big private insurance companies, and fail to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability to pay, has access to quality, affordable, culturally-competent health care.

- Wins**
- The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) massively decreased health care costs and made the promise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) a reality.
  - More than 21 million people have affordable health care because of the Affordable Care Act.
  - 41 states have expanded Medicaid, supported by the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act.

- Vision**  
*spread these words!*
- **Together, we will ensure health care for all, with no exceptions!**
  - We will maintain affordable health care coverage for millions of people in the U.S., ensure that all states have access to expanded Medicaid, and protect gains like the Affordable Care Act from efforts to erode them.

### Make prescription medicines affordable

- Current Reality**
- For decades, Big Pharma corporate executives have bought political influence in order to keep caps off of drug prices. This has allowed the prices of needed medicines to skyrocket—enlarging the profits of Big Pharma while the rest of us struggle to afford the medications we rely on.

- Wins**
- 1.5 million Medicare patients save over \$750 million per year on insulin due to a price cap of \$35 per month from the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - Starting in 2025, seniors' drug costs not covered by Medicare will be capped at \$2,000 per year.

- Vision**  
*spread these words!*
- **Together, we will ensure that we can access the lifesaving medicines we need and hold Big Pharma accountable.**

## Improve maternal care and end the Black maternal health crisis

- Current Reality**
- The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate, for Black, Brown, and white mothers, of any industrialized country.
  - This is due to a historic failure of many elected leaders to ensure access to quality, affordable, and culturally-sensitive health care, especially for Black and Brown women, and low-income people of all races.

- Wins**
- The 2022 Pregnant Workers' Fairness Act, championed by we the people(!), protects the rights of pregnant workers to safely earn a living while pregnant—and ensures accommodations like the right to use a stool at work and take adequate bathroom breaks.
  - Parents across the country have better access to safe, affordable postpartum care, because the Inflation Reduction Act extended postpartum coverage under Medicaid. Most states have opted into this extended coverage.

- Vision**  
*spread these words!*
- **Together, we will invest in adequate health care** and financial supports to improve the health of birthing parents and newborn babies, by passing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which ensures that all new parents—Black, Brown, and white—have access to adequate health care.

## Make nutritious food accessible to everyone

- Current Reality**
- In the richest nation in the world, 44 million of us are at risk of hunger, including one in five children.
  - In particular, the need for food assistance is highest in Black and rural communities.
  - In 2023, many GOP members of Congress tried to slash funding for nutrition assistance programs, making it harder for our communities (and especially our children) to have enough healthy food to eat.

- Wins**
- In 2023, we resisted GOP efforts to gut food security programs with work-reporting requirements.
  - Together, we secured much-needed additional funding to ensure that all women, infants, and children have access to the food they need through the WIC program.

- Vision**  
*spread these words!*
- **Together, we will end hunger in America** by ensuring robust nutrition funding, including in the Farm Bill, for SNAP, WIC, school meals, senior meals, and the Emergency Food Assistance program.