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### Statement and call to action from North Carolina's two Catholic Bishops

The Catholic Bishops of North Carolina say a University of North Carolina system requirement dealing with its health care coverage for students is a matter of grave concern. The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, and the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, say at issue is the fact that the University's health care policy covers the act of abortion. The system requires all students to purchase the University insurance plan until they can provide proof that they have other coverage.

When questions were raised last week, University leaders responded by saying students may opt-out of that portion of the plan which funds an abortion. However, the issue remains that even though pro-life students may opt out, the cost of the policy remains the same for them, in effect forcing Pro-life students to participate in deliberately bringing death upon another student's child.

The bishops stated, "It is deeply disturbing that a state sponsored health insurance plan is providing coverage and therefore funding, for the direct destruction of innocent human life. We call on the UNC Board of Governors to halt the requirement of students to underwrite those who support this unacceptable practice which seeks to end the life of the weak and defenseless."

Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge, who represent more than 800,000 Catholics in North Carolina, are calling on the faithful in both dioceses to contact the UNC Board of Governors requesting that the Board rescind that portion in the University health care policy which provides payment for the purposeful termination of pregnancies, thereby denying true provision for the health and value of all persons concerned.

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