

June 14, 2023

Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio President United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 3211 4th St NE Washington, DC 20017

Your Excellency,

We at Solidarity HealthShare are very concerned about an alarming and dangerous development within the Catholic healthcare sector, and we sincerely hope the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can address this highly controversial issue as soon as possible.

As you are aware, a recent <u>published report</u> revealed that several hospitals within America's largest Catholic nonprofit healthcare system are performing sex change operations, providing hormone suppression and puberty blocking drugs to young patients, and have medical staff participating in "pronoun training" under guidelines set by The Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

These developments reveal how effective the present administration has been in forcing dangerous, secular mandates on healthcare providers – including the faith-based healthcare sector.

We believe it is time for the Catholic healthcare sector to courageously oppose the far-left agenda being pushed by this administration and immediately stop offering these procedures and drugs.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opposed all medical attempts to modify peoples' sexual characteristics by <u>saying</u>, "Catholic health care services must not perform interventions, whether surgical or chemical, that aim to transform the sexual characteristics of a human body into those of the opposite sex or take part in the development of such procedures."

We hope the Bishops support our position that people of faith should not be forced to support procedures that contradict their deeply held religious values and convictions. Solidarity HealthShare remains committed to protecting our Members' consciences by sharing only in ethical and life-affirming healthcare that prioritizes their unique healthcare needs while upholding their worth and dignity."

Solidarity HealthShare is respectfully asking the Bishops to vote to revise their Religious and Ethical Directives for Catholic Health Care to be line with their <u>doctrinal note</u> released earlier this year, and to ask all Catholic healthcare providers to stop providing such life-altering medical procedures and drugs that directly counter Catholic Church teachings.

We appreciate the opportunity to add our voice to this important issue.

Respectfully,

Chris Faddis President of Solidarity HealthShare

CC: Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores; Most Reverend Michael F. Olson; Rev. Michael J.K. Fuller