

2009 Advocacy Priorities

St. Joseph Health
System
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Annually, the St. Joseph Health System identifies legislative advocacy priorities. Those priorities are selected based on anticipated federal and state legislative issues, as well as specific Advocacy Criteria established and approved by the Board based on themes of Social Teaching. Core issues of Catholic healthcare ministry including religious freedom and end of life care are addressed by the SJHS advocacy infrastructure as needed throughout the legislative year.

Northern California

Working closely with our ministries and with select national and state organizations, we establish clear annual priorities and generate local, grass roots action by providing alerts to employees and community members and then helping them contact legislators at critical points in the legislative process.

St. Joseph Hospital

Redwood Memorial
Hospital

Santa Rosa Memorial
Hospital

Systemic Healthcare Reform

Consistent with the SJHS Vision of Health Care Reform, engage in and support public policy that will lead to systemic health care reform. Continue our engagement and dialogue with public and civic leaders. Work to ensure inclusion of prevention, wellness and health IT programs.

St. Joseph Home
Care Network of

Protect Operational Stability and Fiscal Solvency

Protect and improve reimbursement to providers from government health programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. Seek redress from existing federal practice regarding specialty hospital regulation. Other issues of concern include, but are not limited to: seismic, values based purchasing, federal economic stimulus assistance, (particularly health IT), tort reform, and quality.

Northern California
Napa County

Queen of the Valley
Hospital

Access to Healthcare

Advocate for expanded access to healthcare for the uninsured and for vulnerable populations including children, immigrants, rural communities and the disabled through the expansion of SCHIP, Medicaid, and Medicare. Support efforts to obtain FQHC status for Catholic clinics without having to surrender our governance role.

Southern California

St. Mary Medical
Center

Protect and Preserve Not-for-Profit Healthcare and Its Tax Exempt Status

Promote community benefit, charity care and patient financial assistance programs demonstrating commitment to voluntarily assist low-income and uninsured patients in our communities. Oppose federal and state regulation and legislation that threaten not-for-profit hospitals and their tax exempt status.

St. Jude Medical
Center

St. Jude Heritage
Medical Group

Protect Catholic Mission Integrity

Advocate for conscience protections at the federal and state level, including the Weldon Amendment. Closely monitor and take action on when appropriate the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) and other bills and regulations that might have ethical implications for SJHS as a Catholic ministry.

St. Joseph Hospital

St. Joseph Health
System Home Health
Agency

Workforce Issues

Seek legislative and regulatory assistance at both the federal and state levels assisting hospitals in addressing current workforce shortages, including physician, nurse and allied health recruitment and retention. Work to protect employee choice and a secret ballot process. Support expansion of the H-1B visa program which is vital to our Texas ministry. Seek enhanced appropriation in the Federal Nurse Reinvestment Act. Work to expand training opportunities for nurses and allied health workers. Assess closely proposals for staffing ratios to ensure adequate criteria are considered.

Mission Hospital
System Office

West Texas /
Eastern New Mexico

Covenant Health
System