



Good morning! My name is Jane Chiles. I am the executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the public policy arm of the Roman Catholic bishops in Kentucky. As we conclude our press conference this morning, there are several critical messages that must go forward:

- There are several elements that must be present as a solution to the Medicaid deficit is sought. The process must occur in the light of the day. It must not occur behind closed doors. It must include consumer representation. The framework for the discussion must acknowledge Medicaid as a binding social contract to Kentucky's most vulnerable, to our parents' generation that depends upon Medicaid for its long term care needs, to our neighbors dealing with all forms of physical and mental disability, and to Kentucky's children.
- The Medicaid solution must not be a double-edged sword, one that slashes expenses at the same time that it shreds our commitment to the defenseless.
- The message around the Medicaid solution must not be "Medicaid, heal thyself!" We must look outside of the Medicaid program for a portion of the remedy.

We look forward to working with the Patton administration and assure all of our commitment to an effort that maintains Kentuckian's strong sense of the worth of all Kentuckians.

**Most Reverend  
Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.**  
Archbishop of Louisville

**Most Reverend  
Robert W. Muench**  
Bishop of Covington

**Most Reverend  
John J. McRaith**  
Bishop of Owensboro

**Most Reverend  
J. Kendrick Williams**  
Bishop of Lexington

**Jane J. Chiles**  
Executive Director