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Yahoo Watch: Texas GOP

by Michael Sean Winters

Distinctly Catholic

Cardinal DiNardo, call your office.

Like many states, Texas is facing a budget crunch. Because we all know that "raising taxes in the middle of a recession" is a violation of the Ten Commandments, state Republican legislators are considering a novel way to cut expenses: Withdrawing from Medicaid, the federal-state program that provides health services to the poor.

The Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Cardinal DiNardo, is also the head of the USCCB pro-life committee. I hope he will be swift to denounce the possibility of withdrawing from Medicaid. Federal medicaid funds, under the Hyde Amendment, do not go to support abortion, so Catholic support for the program should be unequivocal.

Every once in awhile, some Texas braggart suggests the state should reclaim its independence and secede from the Union. I am beginning to think we should let them go.

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