

Commercial Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Act of 2008  
H.R. 5404 and S. 2630,

Proposed by: AOS-USA Fishing Committee

WHEREAS fishing families are an under served population and in need of health care;

WHEREAS fishing families are characterized with a high uninsured rate, low income, small businesses owners, large immigrant population, and having a higher than average rate of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-C, Diabetes, and Asthma;

WHEREAS in Massachusetts the example of the Fishing Partnership Health Plan (FPHP), fishing families uninsured rates dropped from 43% to 13%; the FPHP serves as a model for other fishing communities – fishing families need healthcare;

WHEREAS some type of health insurance plan for fishing families should be adopted by every state across the nation; and every community should begin with market research to identify the specific needs of the fishing families in each state; when this data has been gathered and analyzed, the second step is to create a strategic plan for the formation of a health care coverage program to meet these specific needs;

WHEREAS there is a need to formalize support for health care for fishing families;

WHEREAS fishermen and their families as seafarers and people of the sea come under the apostolic responsibility of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees and the Apostleship of the Sea;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States America (AOS-USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference at the mitags Center in Linthicum, Maryland, recognizes the need among fishing families for access to high quality, affordable health care coverage; AND

RESOLVED, that AOS-USA endorses the use of federal funding for market research, strategic planning, and ongoing programmatic funding to support the development, implementation, and operation of health care coverage programs for fishing families as outlined in S. 2630 and H.R.5404