NAFTA and International Public Health: An Interfaith Call for Access to Medicines

President Trump, Members of Congress and Administration officials,

Recognizing the inherent dignity of the human person, our faith traditions call us to care for the sick and respond to the needs of the poor in our societies. Trade agreements can have enormous impacts on the ability of the sick and the poor to access the medicines they need for healing and even survival. We ask that:

- The renegotiated NAFTA reaffirm the TRIPS public health protections that enable the United States and other countries to promote the human right to health and access to medicines for all.
- The investor-state arbitration mechanism not be included in the renegotiated agreement, defending sovereignty and the obligation of governments to safeguard the common good within their nations.
- A renewal of the Bipartisan Agreement on Trade Policy espoused by President George W. Bush and leaders of both parties in Congress in May 2007. This “May 10th Agreement” recognized the flexibility in intellectual property rights provisions with regard to pharmaceuticals that developing countries sometimes need in order to serve the public health needs of their people.

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