

To: The New York State Assembly and Senate

As clergy and faith leaders from across New York State, we enthusiastically support the New York Health Act and call on you to pass this legislation this year.

Each of our faiths holds in common a belief in the dignity of every human being. We also share the conviction that our society has a moral obligation to care for the most vulnerable among us and to ensure fairness in our economic and political institutions. As it says in the Hebrew Scriptures, "Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your neighbors, to the needy, and to the poor in your land.'" (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Unfortunately our current health care system does not reflect these shared values. Approximately one million New Yorkers lack health insurance, and many more have limited coverage or high deductibles that prevent them from going to the doctor. Too often, getting lifesaving care means significant financial hardship - particularly for low and middle-income families.

These inequities in our health care system are unnecessary and immoral. Providing comprehensive health care to every New York resident is not only possible, it would cost less. Most importantly, it would prevent needless suffering and death.

How we care for the sick is one of the most basic tests of our society's character. New York can and must do better. We call on you to join the fight to pass the New York Health Act this year.

Name	Email Address	Zip Code	Title	Organization (for ID only)

