

Board of Directors

Bailey Bloom, President
The Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Vice President
Don Odell, Secretary
John E. Keevert, Treasurer
The Rev. Steve Clunn
Sarah Birn, Esq.
Rabbi Bernard Bloom
Kenneth Bollerud
Ann Brandon
The Rev. Dr. Tom Davis
DeWitt Ellinwood
The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert
Herbert Gordon
Eileen Hamlin
Harsey Leonard
Damaris McGuire
Ruth Sabo, Ph. D.
Niels Schulz
Judy Schwartz
The Rev. Raymond E. Strawn, Jr.
The Rev. Douglas Taylog
The Rev. Sam Trumbore
Barbara Zaron

Clergy Advisory Board

The Rev. Kaaren Anderson
The Rev. Kenneth I. Applegate
The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley
Rabbi Henry Bamberger
The Rev. Johanna Barrett
The Rev. Michelle Bogue-Trost
The Rev. Ben Bortin
The Rev. Stephen C. Butler
The Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Chulak
Rabbi Matthew Cutler
Rabbi Jerome K. Davidson, D.D.
Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson
The Rev. Larry A. Deyss
The Rev. Linda Dolby
Rabbi Debora S. Gordon
The Rev. Dr. Paula J. Gravelle
Rabbi Daniel Gropper
The Rev. Margaret Hart
Rabbi Alan J. Katz
Rabbi Lawrence A. Kotok
The Rev. Robert C. Lamar
The Rev. Dr. William A. Lasher
The Rev. Christopher Luedde
Pastor Alexandra S. Lusak
Rabbi Linda Motzkin
The Rev. Dr. Hugh Nevin
The Rev. Larry Phillips
Rabbi Daniel Polish
The Rev. Judith Quarles
The Very Rev. David Robinson
Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein
Rabbi Scott Shpeen
The Rev. Bruce Southworth
The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Straut, Jr.
Pastor Scott Taylor
The Rev. David Weissbard
The Rev. Wade Wheelock
Rabbi Michael A. White
The Rev. Robert A. White

Executive Director

Robb Smith

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE**

Interfaith Impact of NYS supports universal access to quality, affordable health care for all New Yorkers.

“Heal the hurt of my people” is a Biblical mandate. Bringing healing to the sick is one of our basic human obligations, attested to by both Jewish and Christian Scriptures. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” As individuals of faith, we have a duty to help ensure that basic health care is available to each and every resident of New York State. Financially, socially and ethically, we cannot afford to do otherwise.

Today, millions of New Yorkers still have no medical insurance, and costs in both human suffering and economic losses are staggering. Lack of insurance is unsafe for the uninsured, for the financial stability of families and for the competitiveness of our industries in the global marketplace, and is detrimental to employment.

We congratulate the Legislature and Governor for expanding New York’s Child Health Plus program by increasing eligibility to 400% of poverty, which can insure up to 400,000 more children. Including the funding in this year’s budget was an important step in the right direction.

We also commend the Legislature and Governor for funding in the FY 2007-2008 budget an independent study to review options for greater access to health care in New York. We urge all involved to make sure that the independent review is an open process that includes public input from consumers, providers, and other stakeholders.

New Yorkers deserve a system that provides quality health care to everyone, adequately compensates providers, and delivers care at reasonable cost to ensure long-term sustainability. A single-payer system with its significant cost savings could be crafted to meet these criteria. We recognize that there are a variety of approaches to achieving universal access to quality health care and look forward to seeing the models currently being developed by the Urban Institute under a contract with New York State.

Interfaith IMPACT of New York State is a statewide organization of congregations and individuals from Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Reform Jewish and other faith traditions. We advocate from our progressive and liberal-religious traditions for social justice in New York State.

May 19, 2008