



**TOMPKINS COUNTY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

www.tompkinschamber.org

May 7, 2004

Mr. Thomas D. McDermott
Senior Examiner
Consumer Services Bureau/State of NY
Insurance Department
One Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12257

Dear Mr. McDermott,

We would like to state that to the best of our knowledge the Ithaca Health Alliance's Health Fund (CSB-328876) has functioned well in our community, since 1997.

The Health Alliance is a Chamber member serving several Chamber businesses, who rely on the Health Fund to provide rudimentary employee coverage, and we have heard no complaints about their service. It is my understanding that the Fund makes clear that they are not a major medical plan. The Alliance's board members are respected community residents.

I believe they are providing necessary and honest aid for many people otherwise unable to access health coverage and I ask that they be regarded as a legitimate part of the solution to this growing local, state, and national problem.

Sincerely,

Jean McPheeters
President