



Cayuga
Medical Center
at Ithaca

September 15, 2004

Gregory V. Serio, Superintendent
State of New York Insurance Department
One Commerce Plaza
Albany NY 12257

Dear Superintendent Serio:

Cayuga Medical Center has partnered with the Ithaca Health Alliance since its founding in 1997. CMC discounts Alliance members' bills and accepts Ithaca HOURS local currency.

The Alliance has paid dozens of bills for its members, many of which, we believe, would not have been paid so promptly or at all.

As you know, medical centers nationwide must write off more and more bad debt, as more Americans become uninsured and underinsured yearly. The Alliance's free clinic services promise to reduce dependence on our emergency room for non-emergencies. Their other programs likewise contribute to community well-being.

The alliance's program is no panacea. But in a time when healthcare cost pressures are increasing on all sides, we believe the sort of ingenuity we see here should be encouraged. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Rob Mackenzie
CEO, Cayuga Medical Center

cc: Ithaca Health Alliance