



Your Partner for a Healthy Community

Alice Cole, R.N., M.S.E.
Public Health Director

401 Harris B. Dates Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850

October 28, 2004

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

Dear Superintendent Serio:

As Public Health Director of the Tompkins County Health Department, I am acutely aware of many unmet health needs endured by area residents. Ready access to preventive and emergency care has declined as more persons lose health insurance and as wages fall behind health costs.

The Ithaca Health Alliance offers a refreshing program combining free and reimbursed preventive care and health education, with reimbursements for simple emergencies. They're a charitable organization, which donated memberships to individuals unable to pay even their modest \$100/year fee.

I have worked with the Alliance on the County's Dental Access Committee and encountered them at other health events. They are dedicated to our community and deeply rooted here.

We request that your department work with them also, to enable them to continue the good they're doing and the ever-greater good they will do.

New Yorkers need more choices, at less cost, rather than fewer choices they cannot afford, or for which they are not eligible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Cole".

Alice Cole, RN, MSE
Public Health director

AC/ps

CC: Paul Glover, Ithaca Health Alliance