

460,000 Souls in Massachusetts have No Health Insurance.

Illuminated by our conviction that each human being is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), *we believe that everyone is precious and deserving of healing.*

Inspired by the compassion of Jesus, who cured disease and illness as he preached the gospel (Matthew 9:25), *we recognize that our calling is not only to preach but to act for the health and wholeness of our community.*

Informed by the Wisdom of the Holy Qur'an (Ch 16, The Bee, Verse 69), *we affirm the call for our communities to share in the responsibility for the physical and spiritual healing of humanity.*

Instructed by the 12th century physician, philosopher, and theologian Moses Maimonides, *we understand that a public system of health care is the moral obligation of any just community.*

As faith leaders and spiritual healers, we are confronted by a startling reality: nearly a half million of our brothers and sisters throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have no health insurance, and an estimated 2,500 more lose their health insurance each week. All in our pews are suffering as insurance premiums rise and our medical institutions struggle to care for the uninsured.

This failure to care adequately for our fellow human beings reveals a body politic that is itself seriously ailing and in need of healing action.

We believe that a compassionate, fiscally sound health care policy is within reach for Massachusetts. We hereby call upon:

Our Commonwealth

- To extend further the benefits of MassHealth to the working poor.
- To assist small business and individuals in making quality coverage more affordable.
- To commit fair payments to hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers.

Our Massachusetts Employers

- To make greater contributions to the health care needs of their employees.

Ourselves

- As persons of faith and taxpayers, to share resources so that access to basic health care is not dependent on wealth.
- As employers, to make health care coverage of those we employ a priority.
- As leaders, to raise a prophetic voice to the moral crisis before us, and to take the necessary political steps to ensure the democratic process responds effectively.

To this end we, the undersigned religious leaders, call upon our elected officials to support the *Health Access and Affordability Act* sponsored by Senator Richard Moore and Representative Deborah Blumer as a first step towards providing adequate health care for all.

The power of healing is in our hands.