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**INTERFAITH LEADERS SUPPORT THE
THE UNINTENDED PREGNANCY PREVENTION ACT (S.6686)**

Interfaith IMPACT of New York State is a statewide advocacy organization representing Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, and Reform Jewish congregations and individuals.

Our various faith perspectives view sexuality, and its ultimate goal of a healthy and committed relationship, as a matter of religious concern. It is an ethical imperative that New York State makes it possible for all women, regardless of age, to access over-the-counter emergency contraception.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, estimate that emergency contraception will reduce the number of abortions in New York State by half; nonetheless, last August, the governor vetoed the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, thereby condemning thousands of women across the state to the devastating physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of an unintended pregnancy.

We also note that lack of readily available emergency contraception places an especially difficult burden on women who are the victims of rape, incest and domestic abuse.

In February, 2006, the Assembly passed Unintended Pregnancy Prevention legislation (A.9906) that addressed some of the concerns expressed last year in the governor's veto message. The bill was revised to provide EC for one treatment only and dispensed only to females. Other changes would mandate that the patient know the risks of unprotected sex and receive an explanation of the resources for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

We believe that other religious views opposing the use of contraception are contrary to established public health policies. The Senate must put science before politics and ensure that women have access to this vitally important reproductive health care option when and where they need it. On behalf of our member congregations and individuals of faith across the state, IINYS urges the New York State Senate to pass the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act (S6686).

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April 24, 2006