Dear Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate;   November 25, 2019

I am a typical stay-at-home, mother of two young children. We are a union family, insured under United University Professionals or UUP. I am not a health care worker, nor does my family have any major health care issues. But as a mother and a citizen, I am horrified by the stories that I have been hearing from my community. So I signed up to volunteer for the Campaign for NY Health. With the little bit of time I had, I volunteered to talk to businesses. What I heard was alarming. The following are some of those stories:

- An art store owner just had his employees' insurance go up over 30% and was distressed.

- A clothing store owner felt compelled to give an employee a check for $10.000 when the employee fell seriously ill.

- A cafe employee was going to a new doctor that very day after work as his insurance had just dropped his doctor, during, I believe, a gender transition.

- A gift store employee said her and her husband have no insurance at all and they worry about it.

- A young man, *in his prime*, only works part time because if he worked more he would loose his Medicaid coverage.

- A bookstore owner said he was near bankruptcy because of his wife's illness.

- A child care center director said she goes on child care center chat groups where the directors ask each other for tips on how, *in the world*, they are going to stay in business with their employees' health insurance increases.

Almost every business had a story. If you don't think this is a CRISIS, then just start talking to your local businesses.

I see this heavy burden, this layer of anxiety over so many New Yorkers' lives. Why? One reason: insurance companies' profits.

But imagine a state where people could live FREE from this for-profit system. Everyone would be covered automatically, completely, and fairly.

People could be FREE to make whatever life choices are best for them, becuase they know they will be insured no matter what.

- People could start businesses, grow businesses, and take risks.

- People could choose to live off their savings, for a period, to pursue an invention or care for a loved one.

- Our highest earners could have the satisfaction of knowing their taxes are contributing to a more civilized community.

- People (and doctors) could be free of all the mind-numbing and time-consuming insurance paperwork and bills and phone calls.

- People could choose whichever doctor they want, and get medical care as soon as they need it.

Let's pass NY Health. This is incredibly SENSIBLE legislation that has been fine-tuned since the 1990's. We've even got the Rand study to back it up! As in Saskatchewan, where the Canadian healthcare system started, let's start here in New York and demonstrate to the rest of the country how transformative a single-payer system can be.

                              Sincerely,
                              Joanna Dempsey
                              New Paltz, NY