

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**  
**RESOLUTION**

**IMPROVEMENT OF INNER CITY HEALTH CARE AND THE ADOPTION OF UNIVERSAL NATIONAL  
HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE UNITED STATES**

1991

Whereas the concept of "tikkum olam", improving the world, is a central tenant of Jewish tradition;

Whereas the Reconstructionist movement was founded on principles of social justice and equality for all peoples;

Whereas poverty among the poor in the cities of the United States is rapidly increasing, and the gulf between rich and poor steadily growing;

Whereas despite medical technologies which have resulted in significant health improvement among Americans not in poverty, incidences of these many illnesses, Aids and drug abuse among the inner - city poor are skyrocketing;

Whereas inadequate medical services for the poor, overcrowded housing, poor nutrition, and the effect of deep poverty on the ability of poor people to seek services has resulted in a crisis owing to lack of access to necessary prevention and treatment;

Whereas this crisis caused by lack of access to medication and vaccinations for poor children significantly impacts an entire new generation of people growing up in poverty;

Whereas a shrinking economy is having devastating financial effects on the middle class, driving many into poverty, and thus subjecting them to the above-described health crisis;

Therefore it be resolved that:

1. We decry the injustices in health care priorities and service delivery in the United States;
2. We call for a reassessment of these priorities and enactment of legislation mandating the allocation of necessary services to the poor;
3. We urge the U.S. Federal government to mandate national health insurance for all Americans;
4. We call upon Jewish institutions to publically support these efforts and to include these issues among their priorities;
5. We call for an assessment of the state of poverty among Jews, including the elderly, to discover the impact of the health care crisis within our own communities and thereby seek necessary remedies;
6. We call upon Jewish and other doctors, including new medical school graduates, to donate a reasonable proportion of their time toward providing free health care to the poor in their cities and towns.