



PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY

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뉴저지 동북부노회 | Presbiterio del Noreste de Nueva Jersey | المجمع شمال شرق نيو جيرسي
Presbitério do Nordeste de Nova Jersey | 新澤西東北部長老會 | Նյու Ջերսիի Հյուսիսարևելյան Շրջանի Երիցածղով

It is my distinct pleasure to express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) and to advocate for the renewal of State-appropriated funds to the health system in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget.

On behalf of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (PNENJ), I am writing to highlight the vital nature of our partnership with RWJBH. Our collaboration is not merely transactional; it is a transformational alliance that has directly strengthened our ability to serve the most vulnerable populations across our region.

As Community Ministry Organizer, my work is grounded in meeting people where they are—addressing not just spiritual needs, but the physical and social realities that affect their lives. RWJBH understands that health happens in the community, not just inside a hospital.

By partnering with RWJBH, the Presbytery has been able to bridge the gap between clinical care and community trust. RWJBH is uniquely positioned to support our organization because they possess the clinical expertise and resources we lack, while respecting the deep, established trust we hold within our congregations and neighborhoods.

The support from RWJBH has acted as a force multiplier for our work. Through our history of collaboration, we have been able to:

- **Expand Access to Care:** Bring critical health screenings and preventive education directly into our community centers and places of worship, removing transportation and fear as barriers to health.
- **Address Social Determinants:** Collaborate on initiatives that address food insecurity, mental health awareness, and chronic disease management, allowing us to care for the "whole person."

- **Build Resilience:** The resources provided by RWJBH have allowed us to stabilize our community outreach programs, ensuring they are sustainable rather than sporadic.

This is not a new relationship. The Presbytery and RWJBH share a history of productive collaboration. This established track record demonstrates that our alignment is long-term and rooted in a shared mission to improve health equity in New Jersey. The renewal of state funding is essential to ensure that this momentum is not lost and that we can continue to scale our impact.

We strongly urge the Legislature to prioritize funding for RWJBarnabas Health in the FY 2027 budget. Their work is an investment in the very fabric of our communities. We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and their commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities.

Sincerely,

Elder Jerome B. Lane Jr.

Community Ministry Organizer Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey

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