



May 1, 2009

By Fax: 212.486.7693

Hon. Charles Schumer
United States Senator
757 Third Ave, Suite 1702
New York, NY 10017

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Dear Senator Schumer:

For the past several years the Women's City Club of New York has studied the financial and organizational problems of our U.S. health care system. We have heard from a number of experts, and examined model systems developed elsewhere. Our conclusion is that the most cost-effective path to a fair and equitable system of universal health care coverage would be through the adoption of a system that allows beneficiaries to choose their physicians and the practice arrangements they prefer and that would follow the general approach of Medicare as it operated from 1965 to 2003, prior to revisions in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003.

The WCC, founded in 1915, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan multi-issue activist organization dedicated to promoting public policies and responsive government to improve the lives of New Yorkers. Protecting the health care rights of all New Yorkers is a long held priority of our organization.

Knowing that you have a major role in developing a key element of health care reform - the creation of a public insurance plan that will ensure coverage for all Americans - we urge you to invite a proponent of the single payer system to participate in the upcoming May 5 and May 14 Senate Finance Committee roundtable discussions on healthcare reform.

As you are undoubtedly aware, various polls have shown strong public support for a single payer system. Numerous cities and even some state legislatures, as well as several important medical and nursing groups have passed resolutions in its favor. We believe that these voices must be heard by the United States Senate and that single payer proposals must be factored into your considered work towards much anticipated and needed health care reform.

We appreciate the good work you do for our state and country, and look forward to your continuing valuable service.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker
President

Annette Choolfaian
Chair of Health Committee