



CSS STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH CARE REFORM LAW

**Statement by David R. Jones, Esq,
President & CEO of Community Service Society**

New York, NY, April 1, 2010 - The passage of health care reform last week is truly monumental. The new law will enable approximately two million uninsured New Yorkers to get health coverage. Over the next ten years, we will receive over \$25 billion to help working New Yorkers buy quality, affordable coverage and nearly \$30 billion in Medicaid funding. Nationally, the law will provide approximately 30 million uninsured Americans with health coverage. It will do more to advance social, racial, and economic equity in the United States than any federal legislation since the Civil Rights Act.

For far too long, health care has been absent from the lives of many low income and working poor New Yorkers. Many New Yorkers lost their jobs in the recession, particularly Black and Latino workers, and cannot afford premiums for employer sponsored benefits, forcing them to live without health insurance, which can impact their ability to get and keep a job. Joblessness is a direct route to poverty.

The law also includes funding for consumer assistance programs, which will not only help people enroll in coverage, but also help them understand how to use the coverage they get. CSS manages NYC MCCAP, Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program, one of the largest consumer assistance programs in the nation. MCCAP, which is funded by the City Council, helps 15,000 consumers navigate the health care system each year. Working with 25 community based providers, we have served more than 130,000 people since the program began 10 years ago. Grassroots programs, like MCCAP, will be the key to implementing the new health care bill.

Thank you to members of the House and Senate for their leadership and commitment, to the people of New York and the nation, to make health care a reality and thank you to Speaker Quinn and the members of the City Council for their leadership in funding NYC MCCAP.

For 160 years, the [Community Service Society of New York](#) has been the leading voice on behalf of low-income New Yorkers and continues to advocate for the economic security of the working poor in the nation's largest city.