

**New Yorkers For Accessible Health Coverage****Member Organizations**

American Association of Kidney Patients,
New York chapter
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
Brain Tumor Foundation
Cancer Care
Care for the Homeless
The Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Greater New York
chapter
Disabled in Action of Metropolitan New York
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater New York
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Hemophilia Association of New York
Huntington's Disease Society of America, New
York and Long Island chapters
Interagency Council of Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, New York City
chapter
Mental Health Association of New York City
Mental Health Association of Westchester County
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill –
New York State
National Aphasia Association
National Marfan Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Capital,
Long Island, New York City, Southern,
and Upstate chapters
New York AIDS Coalition
New York Association of Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Services
SHARE: Self-Help for Women with Breast and
Ovarian Cancers
SLE Foundation
West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition for Long Island

Cooperating Organizations

Alliance of Resident Theaters of New York
Brooklynwide Interagency Council of the Aging
Citizen Action of New York
Commission on the Public's Health System
Community Healthcare Network
Community Service Society
Dance Theater Workshop
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Institute for Puerto Rican and Hispanic Elderly
Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Medicare Rights Center
Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign
National Association of Social Workers,
New York City chapter
New York State Health Care Campaign
New York State Nurses Association
New York State Psychological Association
New York Statewide Senior Action Council
Senior Services
Society for Hospital Social Work Directors,
Metropolitan New York chapter
South Fork Community Health Initiative
William F. Ryan Community Health Center

January 20, 2009

To the Editor
The NewYork Times

Dear Editor:

While the positive impacts of Governor Paterson's plan to extend group insurance coverage to employees' children up to age 29 may be limited (news article, Jan. 19), the potential negative impact, if the proposal is not modified, is considerable.

Since 1992, New York has been one of very few states with community rating. Small employers are not charged more to insure older workers, women, or people with health problems. Governor Paterson's proposal would create a new class of young adults offered reduced premiums based on age, re-introducing rating by risk. Equity will demand that age distinctions be generalized throughout the market; community rating will unravel and many businesses and their employees will find it harder to afford insurance.

Even small incremental measures that increase coverage deserve support. But there is no reason to dismantle consumer protections like community rating in the process.

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