



**July 29, 2009**

**Statement from David R. Jones, Esq.**

**Community Service Society Commends Governor Paterson for Signing Health Insurance Reform Bills**

Health care reform is essential to improving the lives of New Yorkers, particularly those earning low-wages and living in poverty. Our annual survey of New Yorkers, the “Unheard Third,” documents the strong correlation between poverty and the lack of health coverage. More than 2.7 million of New York’s 19 million residents do not have health insurance. The lack of health insurance is a major barrier for the 1.7 million people in poverty in New York City.

I commend Governor Paterson for expanding and improving access to care for New Yorkers, making health care more affordable for millions of uninsured New Yorkers. CSS, through our Health Initiatives, continues to work diligently on creating a statewide plan for health care.

The three bills signed today are:

- A.8400/S.5471, which extends COBRA coverage from 18 to 36 months for workers who were laid off or have a reduction in hours;
- A.9036/S.6030, which allows young adults (ages 19-29) to obtain a COBRA-like coverage through his or her parent's insurance, while still preserving New York's pure community rating system; and
- A.8402/S.5474, which strengthens and updates consumer and provider protections in managed care look alike products.

Contact: Tracy Munford  
646-483-6804  
212-614-5538