



**Testimony of Mark King, Chair
Western Region Board of Advisors
American Cancer Society, Eastern Division (New York and New Jersey)**

**Public Hearing on “Partnership for Coverage”
Wednesday, October 3, 2007**

Commissioner Daines, Superintendent Dinallo, and esteemed members of the panel: Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the issue of universal health care coverage. My name is Mark King and I am the Chair of the Western Region Board of Advisors for the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society.

Dave Momrow, our Senior Vice President of Cancer Control, has already testified before you, at the first hearing in Glens Falls. So you know why we are here. We are here because the American Cancer Society will not achieve its goals for reducing the burden of cancer on the American public unless everyone with the potential for a cancer diagnosis has access to preventative services and appropriate screening, and every cancer patient can obtain affordable and high quality treatment including necessary prescription medications.

In Glens Falls, Dave Momrow outlined our four A’s for health insurance reform: affordability, accessibility, adequacy, and administrative simplicity. We believe that the American Cancer Society’s role in the health care debate is to talk about the importance of meaningful health insurance

to cancer patients and those at risk of cancer, to evaluate health care reform proposals using these 4 A's, and to form partnerships and collaborations with like-minded groups like the Business and Labor Coalition of New York (BALCONY) in order to have a greater impact on decision makers.

To this end, we are in the process of evaluating the recently enacted Massachusetts health care plan, and the implications of that plan for the prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer. We look forward to sharing that evaluation with you at an upcoming Partnership for Coverage hearing.

Today, however, I would like to introduce Karen Milligan, a 9-year breast cancer survivor. Karen is here to illustrate the importance of affordability in health care, as she shares her struggle with health care coverage that is not affordable for her and her family.