

Testimony at Public Hearing on Universal Health Care

11/13/07

By Richard H. Aubry, M.D., MPH

Background-

Director of Academic & Community Obstetrics for SUNY – Upstate Medical University.

- 50 years of OB care for high risk and economically disadvantaged pregnant women of Central N.Y.

Input

- Outcome of pregnancy is poor and is significantly related to the lack of Universal Health Care.
- Universal Health Care, with its increased focus on prevention would decrease costs of Neonatal Intensive Care.
- Stepwise approach is good and is embodied in the S-CHIP legislation which includes universal maternity care.
- The national American College of Obstetrics (ACOG) has strongly endorsed the S-CHIP with universal maternity care as reflected in the attached letter from the ACOG president. The letter details the manner in which universal maternity care would not only improve outcomes but also save money.
- The N.Y.S. ACOG recommends a comprehensive set of maternity services for women up to 300% of the Federal Poverty level including:
 - Expanded coverage for preconception care for all women of reproductive age;
 - Expanded coverage of health care services for pregnant women up to one year postpartum;
 - Renewed funding for outreach initiatives to inform pregnant women of the availability of health insurance; and
 - Increased reimbursement rates to maternity care providers and agencies participating in prenatal care assistance programs for underserved women.

My lifetime of experience from the vantage point of being an OB Care Provider, researcher, Teacher & Administrator has resulted in my strong support and sense of urgency to move forward with Universal Health Care

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