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To: <kergaravata@nyassembly.gov>, "Carolyn Sheridan" <csherida@nyenate.gov>

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Subject: Testimony for the Public Hearing on Healthcare

Hello Ms. Sheridan and Mr. Kergaravat,

Thank you for accepting my written testimony by email.

While I am a California resident, my mother was born in Utica and the majority of my family still lives upstate. I also happen to be a single payer policy advocate in California so I am extremely interested in New York's attempts to enact a single payer solution. I am not part of any organization but here is my website: www.HealthcareforCA.com. I am happy to answer any questions via phone or email.

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My testimony

Esteemed members of the Senate and the Assembly:

According to the OECD, the United States currently spends nearly twice as much on healthcare per capita than all other industrialized nations. Furthermore, healthcare costs are rising more than twice as fast as inflation. We are currently ranked 37th in efficiency and 34th in quality. Not only are we already overspending for an ineffective system, costs are rising at an unsustainable pace. Not enacting reform is a dereliction of your duty.

I implore you:

Instead of finding reasons why single payer won't work, find solutions to make it work.

Instead of talking about how much it will cost, talk about how much it will save.

Instead of making assumptions, ask questions.

It is time to stop applying band aids to the infected area and attend to the root of the affliction: we are an unhealthy population being served by a fragmented and outdated system that rewards providers for volume of care rather than quality of care.

This is not an easy task. But it is your duty to take action.

"There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction." - John F. Kennedy

Thank you for your time and consideration.

