



**CID-NY**

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**Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY**

### **Comment on Federal Health Care Reform**

Among the many provisions of federal health care reform that must be implemented right away, is a requirement that Health and Human Services (HHS) create a website showing current insurance options, both private insurance and public programs, available in a state. The law calls

for the Secretary of HHS to establish a standard format to be used in presenting information which includes: eligibility for public coverage, plan availability, premium rates and cost sharing. CIDNY has contributed to the comments of Health Care for All New York and will be submitting its own comments.

We want to make sure that the information is presented in an understandable and meaningful way, and that some of the more complicated things that people with serious illnesses and disabilities need to know are not lost when information is simplified. What is most important to you when you are looking for health insurance coverage?

Let us know and we will include it in our comments. Contact Heidi at 646.442.4741 or [hsiegfried@cidny.org](mailto:hsiegfried@cidny.org).

### **TD Bank Supports CIDNY**

TD Bank awarded CIDNY with a \$2,500 grant to support our work. TD Representative, Joyce Milliner presented a check to Executive Director Susan Dooha on March 6, 2010.



### **Computers for People with Visual Impairments Available for Use at CIDNY Offices in Manhattan and Queens.**

The New York State Commission on the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CVBH) has provided software packages for two CIDNY computers so that we can accommodate the needs of people who are blind or visually impaired. In addition to Microsoft Word and Excel, the computers have EASeReader, Acronis True Reader, Zoomtext, ABBYY Fine Reader 10 Professional Editor, MAGic Screen Magnification Application and Jaws.

If you need access to a computer with this software, you can contact our offices in Manhattan or Queens to make an appointment. In general, the computers are available Monday through Thursday



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from 10:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Make sure to call ahead so that a computer will be available when you come in. To make an appointment in Manhattan, call 212-674-2300; in Queens, call 646-442-1512. If you have further questions or would like more information, contact Don Holford at 646-442-4183.

**New York State Assembly Passes 18 Bills on Disability Awareness Day**

Task Force on People with Disabilities Gives Advocacy Award to CIDNY Executive Director Susan Dooha

On Monday, May 17, the New York State Assembly held its annual "Disability Awareness Day." Advocates from all over the State joined lawmakers from People with Disabilities

visibility of our issues with other members. At the same time, Assembly members introduced, and the Assembly passed, a package of 18 bills "in order to empower individuals with disabilities by providing great protection and accessibility under New York State Law."

During the morning session, Task Force on People with Disabilities Chair, Michael Cusick (D. Staten Island) awarded the Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Award for Advocacy to CIDNY Executive Director, Susan M.

Dooha in recognition of her accomplishments on behalf of people with disabilities. In her acceptance remarks, Dooha said that she was honored to receive the award during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Americans With Disabilities Act. She noted that while we have made some strides since the Act was signed into law in 1990, we have a long way to go. "People with disabilities still experience disparities in housing, in health care, in education, in

transportation and in voting, we have much more to do." Dooha said she was accepting the award on behalf of all the advocates present and those not present who continue to work for social equality



Michael J. Cusick (D. Staten Island), Chair of the Task Force on People with Disabilities; Joan L. Millman (D. Brooklyn); Lily Dooha-Fasano; and Susan M. Dooha at Assembly Disability Awareness Day.

for all people with disabilities.

Felix Ortiz (D-Brooklyn), Chair of the Mental Health Committee, Joan Millman (D-Brooklyn), and Tom McKeivitt (R,C, I-East Meadow) addressed the advocates, congratulated us on our accomplishments and reiterated their commitment to working with advocates for people with disabilities throughout the year.