



WILLIAM SCARBOROUGH
Assemblyman 29th District

THE ASSEMBLY
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ALBANY

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Committee on Children and Families

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November 19, 2009

Commissioner Richard Daines
N.Y. State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

AHN!
NISHA or
SETH

Dear Commissioner Daines,

First, let me thank you for your agency's participation in the Health Care Roundtable on November 12, 2009 at York College, Jamaica N.Y. Associate Commissioner and Regional Director Celeste Johnson was very helpful and informative in discussing the actions and goals of the Department of Health in regard to the health care system in Southeast Queens.

As elected officials, our specific Goals in convening the forum was to discuss the impacts of the hospital and clinic closings in our area, and have health systems policy makers and implementers assess the current situation in terms of being able to meet the health needs of our residents. It was determined that DOH is engaged in precisely that type of comprehensive assessment of our health delivery system at the present time, with a goal of publishing that assessment in the near future. We are very interested in the outcome of this assessment, since it will be a key component in future planning for our health needs. We as elected officials and health care advocates, look to work collaboratively with DOH in developing this report and there were two major requests that we wish to see implemented before the assessment is completed, and as expeditiously as possible. 1) We would like to convene a health care hearing in Southeast Queens and have the Department of Health attend, especially those engaged in doing the assessment. We have many health practitioners, experts, advocates and concerned residents who feel that it is important for DOH to hear from them and dialogue with them before completing a document so crucial to the future of our health system. 2) We would like to establish a small Work Group of local officials, practitioners and advocates to work with DOH in developing this assessment. It was pointed out that a preliminary analysis done by DOH earlier this year listed numerous health resources in Southeast Queens, but in fact a substantial number of them had moved, were closed or were otherwise not available for service. This was felt to be due to the fact that persons composing the analysis were receiving faulty information, and had no local input that

could correct the misinformation. We would like to help eliminate this possible obstacle and we will contact your office shortly to follow up on these initiatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William Scarborough
Assemblyman 29th A.D.

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