

## **CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION**

One Penn Plaza \* Suite 640 \* New York, NY 10119

**Contact: Charles Brecher**  
**212-279-2605, ext. 315**

**Diana Fortuna**  
**212-279-2605, ext. 322**

### **CBC SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BERGER COMMISSION**

**New York, NY – November 28, 2006** – The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) today praised the recommendations of the New York State Commission on Quality Health Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (The Berger Commission) as significant first steps in a long and difficult road to making New York’s health care system more effective and efficient.

The recommendations address an enormously important problem, which is the great burden that the large and growing cost of health care places on private employers, State and local governments, and therefore on workers and taxpayers.

The contribution of these recommendations is two-fold:

- First, the short-term recommendations for closure and restructuring of institutions are the important first steps that can be taken to achieve significant savings and improve the quality of care;
- Second, and perhaps more importantly in the long run, the broader policy recommendations point the way to permitting the health care system to better reach those now without coverage and to do so in a fiscally rational way.

“Closing hospitals is a bold and crucial step,” said CBC Research Director Charles Brecher. “But, in the long run, achieving the proposed changes in provider payment policy will be an even greater accomplishment.”

*Founded in 1932, the Citizens Budget Commission is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic organization devoted to influencing constructive change in the finances and services of New York State and New York City governments.*