

For Immediate Release
September 8, 2006

Contact:
Laura McClure: lauramcclure@earthlink.net
Mary Breuninger: 607-432-2234

LOCAL CITIZENS TO SPEAK OUT ON HEALTHCARE

On **Wednesday, September 27, 2006**, residents of Otsego, Delaware, and Chenango counties will share their personal experiences with the U.S. healthcare system in a "Speakout" sponsored by the Healthcare Committee of the Coalition for Democracy of Central New York. Elected officials and the media will be on hand to hear what participants have to say.

"Stop almost anyone on the street and they've got a healthcare horror story to tell," said John Ruland, one of the Speakout organizers and President of the Otsego County Council of Senior Citizens. "People are really upset about everything from the high co-payments to the endless paperwork -- as well as the new Medicare prescription plan, which has been a nightmare for a lot of people. And that's just what you hear from those who actually *have* healthcare coverage. Almost 15 percent of people in our area have no health insurance at all."

The Speakout will begin at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at the Elm Park Methodist Church (401 Chestnut Street in Oneonta). It will include small-group and large-group discussion about people's personal experiences and about the U.S. healthcare system as a whole. The event's sponsors see it as a first step in an effort to create a local movement for healthcare reform. The Speakout will be followed by a series of interactive workshops in October aimed at further educating local residents about this issue and mapping out a plan of action.

For more information about the Speakout, please email Laura McClure at lauramcclure@earthlink.net or call Mary Breuninger at 607-432-2234. The Coalition for Democracy of Central New York seeks to provide a strong, unified grassroots voice in upstate New York to promote societal and environmental agendas that "promote the general welfare," as referred to in the U.S. Constitution. For more information about CfD, please visit their website at: www.democracycoalition.org.