



**Southland Ministerial
Health Network**
"Providing Information, Inspiration and Resources"

I am Carl White Jr., from Victory Christian Ministries International and the Southland Ministerial Health Care network. I am aware of your past funding of the Access to Care and thank you for it. I am also here to ask you to continue the funding at the same level or close to it, as in the recent past.

As you know, Access to Care has been part of the delivery system of primary health care since 1991 when Cook County began funding the program. Access to Care serves low-income, uninsured residents of suburban Cook County. I have been told by people in the program that they like having a private doctor to call when ill. Because Access to Care uses private doctors, hospital radiology departments and many labs, there are no overhead expenses. Access to Care works completely in the private sector of medicine and is able to secure generous discounts.

Funding for the Access to Care program is an excellent use of public funds. The Access to Care program because of the generosity of its participating physicians, and the discounts offered for lab, radiology and prescription medication is able to double the value of each dollar. The estimated value of the donations provided by the over 600 physicians has been conservatively estimated at \$3,000,000. The program is very cost effective. It costs \$750 to provide one year of coverage for one person through Access to Care. One visit to an emergency room will cost more than that!

The program serves those people that are not eligible for County Care or other public health programs. There is still a huge need for the Access to Care program, even after the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare).

This program is very essential to the community for the needs of families that may be going through some hardship and cannot afford coverage. Not having health insurance and or not being able to get coverage can be damaging financially and physically. Having some type of health coverage helps when an unexpected situation arises. We are very appreciative for the help received by these families that are in need of what the Access to Care program provides.

I thank you for your commitment to Access to Care. I also thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of this needed program. I urge you to vote to fund Access to Care at the same level as you have in recent past years. It is needed and a good use of our tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Apostle Carl L White Jr.