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1 January, 2003

Senator Sessions  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The Board of Directors of Community Health Works, (CHW), and I congratulate and commend your answering the call to public service. We look forward to working with you toward better health for all residents through communities working together!

As you know, the healthcare portion of the state budget is enormous! Despite this, 1 in 5 Georgians have no health care coverage (and the number is rising).<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is clear that we must all work together toward maximal benefit from invested dollars - changing the system of financing and delivering healthcare to improve health.

Community Health Works (CHW) is doing just that! CHW, formerly called Health Care Central Georgia, Inc., is a growing network of five hospitals, three public and behavioral health providers, over 60 physicians, one clinic and 20 pharmacies currently serving over 1,000 medically uninsured adults in the seven central Georgia counties of Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach and Twiggs. Our partnership is growing daily! By providing access to basic medical services through a managed continuum of outpatient and hospital care, we can report the following results:

- ?? We are delivering healthcare to the most complex uninsured patients at **approximately half of the average national cost.**
- ?? **Members utilize the hospitals and ERs at rates lower than the national average.**
- ?? Members report **improved health.**
- ?? CHW has emerged as the trusted, neutral regional health collaborative. In this role, we will support the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, **reaching out to a broader 25 county area.**<sup>2</sup>
- ?? CHW is **nationally recognized** as one of 13 Communities in Charge by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and one of six sites to demonstrate return on community investment in healthcare by the National Association of Counties.

**We are proving that, when you improve health, you save money.**

Please take a few minutes to read more about Community Health Works in the enclosed materials. We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss how we can best work together to improve Georgia's fiscal and physical health.

Happy New Year!

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<sup>1</sup> William S. Custer, Ph.D., nationally renowned health economist, Georgia State University

<sup>2</sup> Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Taylor, Telfair, Twiggs, Upson, Washington, Wilcox and Wilkinson counties

*Serving adult residents of Bibb, Crawford, Houston Jones, Monroe, Peach and Twiggs counties*

*A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Community in Charge" with additional support from The MedCen Community Health Foundation, The Georgia Department of Community Health, The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the Access Georgia Philanthropic Collaborative, Health Care Georgia Foundation, Georgia Health Foundation, and many community partners*

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