



## **Joint Statement by The Kingston and Benedictine Hospitals on the Berger Commission Report**

The Kingston and Benedictine Hospitals have been engaged in discussions on how to best to structure a cooperative health care delivery system, which would be consistent with the goals of the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century, (The Berger Commission) and the needs of the community. We embrace the concept of the two hospitals working together to provide better health care for the patients of Kingston, Ulster County and surrounding counties. The hospitals have had a history of joint initiatives including recruitment for surgical specialties, and a cooperative demonstration project for cardiac catheterization. Most recently Benedictine and Kingston Hospitals have been working on an effort to have our respective institutions reclassified into the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for Medicare reimbursement purposes.

With the Berger Commission as the catalyst, we are hopeful for anti-trust protection as well as incentives by New York State to enable our hospital's to develop opportunities to enhance the quality of healthcare for our area. The Berger Commission has outlined a direction for the future. We will continue to work with the Department of Health to reach a consensus of how best to achieve the goals of the Commission, provide full access to health care while at the same time advancing the medical capabilities of the hospitals.