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THE KOREAN COMMUNITY
SERVICES OF METROPOLITAN
NEW YORK, INC.

뉴욕한인봉사센터
Since 1973

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**Testimony Before the New York City Council
Committee on Health
Budget and Oversight Hearings on the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget
February 8, 2022**

**Testimony of Jason Kim, ACA Navigator
The Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS)**

Good afternoon. My name is Jason Kim, and I am a Project Coordinator at the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc (KCS). I would like to first thank the Committee on Health for today’s opportunity to share our story.

For over 40 years, the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. has been serving the Korean-American population, as well as the wider immigrant communities through the provision of programs in the areas of Aging, Education, Immigration, Workforce Development, Public Health and Mental Health. KCS continues to operate under the mission of helping immigrants fully integrate into society and overcome any economic, health and social barriers so that they become independent and thriving members of the community.

As we serve Korean community in New York. There are different cases that we hear from them. What we have in common is language barrier or lack of information of the insurance system in New York. Our one of biggest goal for us is that spread right information and understand people insurance programs in New York. As a navigator I hear from many clients and their cases. One of our uninsured client visited KCS because he diagnosed lung cancer and it is really emergency. The problem he was undocumented and he has no family with him. We could help him apply the application for NYC Care. He told me that he couldn’t do it if KCS wasn’t around. Also most of clients we meet, they are above 50’s. Most of times they face the language barrier and it is hard to access the insurance programs they can access. Also I’ve met many clients who are recently moved from Korea. They have no idea how the insurance works and what they need to prepare. We could help them to apply their insurance and they were glad that KCS is always there when they need a help.

We would like to thank the City Council’s commitment to health equity for all New Yorkers, and supporting the efforts of community-based organizations like KCS in the past. We couldn’t serve the community and it wouldn’t be possible without the support from the City Council and Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our story

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