

## **About Us**

In his book, De-Spamming Health – Reforming the Health System From the Bottom Up, Jim Felsen describes a letter he wrote to John Stossel after reading Stossel's book, Give Me A Break. Stossel describes how central government programs, often rigid and fragmented, continue to expand rapidly, costing us a fortune. Many are ineffective or actually end up hurting those they are intended to help. Mentioning this failure often results in one being ostracized, criticized, marginalized, and destroyed. The letter asked Stossel how many of us are there that have reached similar conclusions, who are we and where are we. He did not receive a reply from Stossel.

Felsen has spent his career supporting professionals toiling in the local health care vineyards. Many share similar observations and express similar frustrations. His book (cited above) explores how most local communities believe they are impotent to reform their health care system but how meaningful reform will only occur when they reestablish ownership and drive the agenda. Its goal is to spur critical thinking and discussion on how to best promote such health system reform.

The goal of the web site, currently hosted by Terri Bliziotis and Jim Felsen, is to find out who we are, where we are and how many of us are there. It is a gathering spot for those who focus their efforts upon improving the effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and quality of health care delivery by operating, supporting, and advocating local health reform initiatives. It invites articles that describe local reform initiatives, as well as those that debunk myths - or provide critical and complete analysis of the options and tradeoffs, i.e., choices, changes and consequences - concerning contemporary health care issues. It encourages responsible and spirited exchange and potentially hopes to serve as a forum for informal and formal consultative assistance.