

## **UNCOVERED DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*UNCOVERED* puts a human face on America's health care crisis by chronicling the struggles of the Nazaretyan family to care for their disabled children without insurance. George and Narine Nazaretyan's twin babies were born three months prematurely and remained in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for 15 weeks. When the Nazaretyan's health insurance company received expensive medical claims, they rescinded the policy, leaving the Nazaretyans with medical bills of a million dollars and severely disabled uninsured children that need specialized medical attention for the rest of their lives.

With Congress divided over how to cover nine million uninsured children, health care reform will undoubtedly become one of the most hotly debated issues in the upcoming presidential election. By poignantly illustrating the medical, financial, and emotional impact of caring for uninsured children, *UNCOVERED* will make viewers feel both outraged and motivated to address this national disgrace at an opportune moment when proposals for universal health insurance will be debated in the run-up to the 2008 election.

I chose a cinema verite style because I wanted to illustrate the nation's health insurance crisis through the experiences and words of one family. I believe that this kind of narrative will engage viewers far more effectively than yet another recitation of grim facts and statistics.

Many of my previous 25 documentaries have taken viewers inside the health care system, including *SOUND AND FURY*, *WHAT'S AILING MEDICINE*, *OUR CHILDREN AT RISK*, *BORDERLINE MEDICINE*, *WHO LIVES - WHO DIES*, and *CAN'T AFFORD TO GROW OLD*. I hope that *UNCOVERED* can build on this two-decade body of work in order to engage viewers in the national debate over how to extend health insurance coverage to all Americans.