

**Remarks of Michael Abroe  
In Accepting the Jarvis Farley Service Award  
October 24, 2011**

I am accepting this award on behalf of all volunteers who annually devote their time and efforts on Academy issues. As you all know, the Academy is a volunteer-driven organization. I am proud to be an actuary, to be part of a group of people who really care about their profession and are willing to volunteer their time to serve its interests. Policymakers appreciate the Academy due to its efforts. The Academy is increasingly looked to for advice and guidance.

I am deeply honored to have been selected. This award is very meaningful to me, because it is awarded by my peers. I now share something special with actuaries I have admired and consider friends.

Much work remains to be done by the Academy. I cringe every time I hear anyone say changes to Medicare or Social Security are off the table. We need to ensure that actuarial perspectives are considered in the many public policy debates our nation will have in the years ahead.

The Academy has done an admirable job on informing the public and policyholders on financial issues concerning Social Security and Medicare. However, given current economic conditions, deficit projections and our aging population, significant changes to these programs are needed. We need to be sure our voices are heard.

The Academy is deeply involved with states and the feds in health care reform implementation efforts. We don't know how the courts will rule nor do we know what future legislation will be enacted. However, continued medical inflation is expected to continue, whether or not ACA is overturned or modified. Continued unchecked claims trends will make insurance premiums more unaffordable. The Academy can have a significant impact.

As an example, the recently released IOM Report on Essential Benefits contains a number of recommendations and issues of an actuarial nature. One recommendation asks for developing "a strategy for controlling rates of growth in health care spending across all sectors in line with the rate of growth in the economy." Another issue is "actuarial equivalence for updating covered essential benefits." These are only two of many actuarial issues contained in the report where actuaries and the Academy can have a say.

On a personal note, I would like to thank academy staff and the many other volunteers with whom I have worked. Through the Academy's collaborative efforts I have learned a great deal.

Finally on a very personal note, I want to acknowledge my son who is here. While he is not an Actuary, he has decided to apply his math skills working for a hedge fund.

Thank you again for this honor. I am deeply appreciative.