**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th**

**11:00 AM**

**Speaker Mike Busch Joins Health Care Leaders To Announce a Series of “Last Chance” Events Across Maryland to Get Consumers Health Coverage**

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(**BALTIMORE, MD. December 3, 2017**) – The Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition will hold a press conference at **11am Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the Annapolis office of MedChi**, the Maryland State Medical Society, with Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Mike Busch, NAACP, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to announce a series of "Last Chance" events to help Marylanders enroll in health insurance during the weekend of Dec. 8-10.

The free events will be held at the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in downtown Baltimore and at 17 other locations throughout the state. Trained, expert "navigators" will be available to help people enroll. Although significant gains have been made in Maryland in recent years, rates of health coverage for minorities remain below the general population. It is important we get the message out to as many people as possible who still remain without health coverage to quality health care prior to the Dec. 15 deadline for open enrollment for 2018.

Speaking at the press conference will be Speaker Busch, Michele Eberle from the Maryland Health Exchange, Gerald Stansbury of the Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches, Vincent DeMarco of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and the Health Care For All! Coalition.

"Marylanders are enrolling in Affordable Care Act health care coverage in record numbers," said Vincent DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. "Eligible Marylanders who have not yet enrolled can still do so before the December 15 deadline and should take advantage of this coming weekend's enrollment events."

"As the December 15 deadline for open enrollment for 2018 draws near, we are more determined than ever to make sure Marylanders have health coverage to protect themselves and their families," said Michele Eberle, incoming executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. "We encourage people to seek in-person help at one of the 18 events around the state next weekend or visit a navigator or broker. For details, visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download our free mobile app to find help near you."

"The NAACP strongly urges Marylanders to go take advantage of these enrollment events this weekend to get health care coverage, " said Gerald Stansbury, President of the Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches. "We have all fought very hard to enact and protect the ACA and health care coverage so let's make it work for everyone."

**When:** Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 11am.

**Where:** Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), 244 Main Street, Annapolis.

**Who: Honorable Michael Busch,** Speaker of the House,Maryland House of Delegates

 **Michele Eberle,** IncomingExecutive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

 **Gerald Stansbury**, President, Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches

 **Vincent DeMarco**, President, Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative

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