



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

November 13, 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY

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New Data to be Released Showing that the Affordable Care Act Has Led to Lower Insurance Premiums for Everyone

Key Legislators and Advocates to Call for Health Insurance Down Payment to Preserve and Expand the ACA's Gains

WHAT: Announcement of new data about positive impact of the Affordable Care Act on insurance premiums; and preview of Healthcare Down Payment legislation

WHO: Vincent DeMarco, president, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

Sen. Brian J. Feldman (Montgomery), lead Senate sponsor of Down Payment bill

Del. Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (Prince George's), lead House sponsor of Down Payment bill

Brian England, President of BA Auto Care in Columbia, Md., who will talk about the decrease in his company's insurance premium hikes

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018, 11 a.m.

WHERE: Lowe House Office Building, Room 142, Anne Arundel County Delegation Room, 6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

New data prepared by the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund suggests that the federal Affordable Care Act has met one of its key goals by easing the growing cost of health insurance premiums for *all* Americans. The data shows that annual health insurance premium increases for employers have come down significantly both at the national and state levels.

At a Nov. 20th event in Annapolis, MCHI will release the data and highlight the need to take action during the 2019 General Assembly session to preserve the gains of the ACA, which have been under attack at the federal level. The focus will be on passage of legislation establishing a Health Insurance Down Payment Plan that would lead to more people having affordable health insurance.

"We intend to make enactment of the Health Insurance Down Payment proposal a priority for the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Session," said Senator Feldman. "We must protect

Marylanders' health care coverage and we know that everyone benefits when we expand health care access."

"I strongly believe that the Health Insurance Down Payment Plan will be good for all Marylanders," said Delegate Peña-Melnyk. "We will expand health care coverage to tens of thousands of now uninsured people and we will help make health care more affordable for everyone."

"The Affordable Care Act helped make health care more affordable for people across the country and in Maryland, but it is under assault in Washington, D.C. Maryland must protect the ACA by passing our Down Payment legislation that will encourage more Marylanders to sign up for insurance, which will help bring down premium costs for everyone," said Vincent DeMarco, president of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. "The election made clear that the public wants more to be done to continue to make healthcare more affordable, and the Down Payment legislation is an essential tool to do that."

"I fought hard to get the Affordable Care Act enacted because I knew it would help small businesses, and it has," said Maryland small businessman Brian England. "I strongly support measures like the Health Insurance Down Payment Plan which would help both the uninsured and small businesses like mine."

At the event, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative will share information it developed from data from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.