



For Immediate Release

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**ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES
TO RECONVENE AT THE 2014 SUMMIT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH**

*National Medical Association Hosts Several Organizations in Effort to Address
Minority Health and to Evaluate Effectiveness of Affordable Care Act in Underserved Communities*

April 15, 2014 – Silver Spring, Maryland – On Thursday, April 17th, the National Medical Association (NMA), the nation’s largest organization representing 37,000 African American physicians, will convene the Second Summit on African American Health at the Washington (DC) Hilton Hotel. The goal of the Summit is to bring together diverse organizations that are committed to addressing health disparities in the African American community. The Inaugural Summit was held in 2013 and led to an aggressive National Action Plan which called for:

- Creating significant decreases in barriers for access to care; increases in health literacy; and increased understanding of preventive care and its importance.
- Developing clear and concise guidelines for early detection of health conditions that are highly prevalent among African Americans and creating significant increases in screenings for these conditions.
- Activating community resources that can be used to address lack of knowledge, lack of health insurance and other barriers to health access.
- Increasing community-based health education through media partnerships.
- Identifying, and increasing the numbers of, primary care physicians and/or behavioral health providers to serve the African American community.

This Summit serves to review the plan, make revisions and executable recommendations to move forward the plan’s objectives.

One of the major areas of discussion will be access to care and, in light of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the participants will discuss its impact on the African American community. Specifically, the participants will be challenged to objectively assess the ACA, it’s enrollment and other implementation factors directly related to African Americans. Although the Obama Administration met its goal of enrolling over 7 million uninsured Americans into health insurance plans, the NMA believes that millions of African Americans are still uninsured.

“In California, only 3 percent of the state’s 17 percent African American uninsured population had enrolled in the Affordable Care Act at the end of March,” said Dr. Michael LeNoir, an Oakland, California physician and President of the NMA. “We believe that California is not the only state in the nation that saw low numbers of African Americans enrolling for health coverage, particularly in many of the states in the South where there were no state health exchanges. Our question is why and what is the prescription for change?”

Adds Dr. LeNoir, “Health disparities and inequality in care is not a new problem and is very complex. However, a continued and collaborative effort to address health disparities with medical organizations, healthcare providers, governmental agencies, private, public and civic organizations, in addition to the faith community, is essential in our fight to eliminate such disparities.”

The Summit on African American Health will convene on Thursday, April 17th, at the Washington Hilton Hotel from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This event is by invitation only. One of the Summit organizations, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), the nation’s oldest and largest association of African American medical students, will concurrently host it’s Annual Medical Education Conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The SNMA is celebrating it’s 50th Anniversary this year.

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