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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

End The Shutdown! Fund The Federal Government!

A Statement from the National Medical Association

Silver Spring, MD (October 1, 2013) —The shutdown of the United States Government will have an immediate effect on the health and well being of ***all*** Americans. For example:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**) will be unable to support the program that oversees seasonal flu shots, and will be impaired in its ability to prevent infectious diseases such as HIV and TB. In addition, the shutdown means the agency can only provide limited support to state governments to investigate disease outbreaks.
- The Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**) – employee furloughs at FDA will immediately impact food and drug safety for all Americans, since the necessary inspections and enforcement action will have to be stopped. This affects everything from spinach to infant formula.
- The National Institutes of Health (**NIH**) will not accept any new patients into the hospital it runs on the main campus in Bethesda, Maryland, and life-saving research on cancer, heart disease and stroke will have to stop. In addition, many of the world's most gifted biomedical researchers will be furloughed.
- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (**ONC**) will be unable to monitor the privacy and security standards that protect the free flow of electronic medical records.

“If we ran our medical practices the way the U.S. Congress has handled the operation of the federal government, we’d be accused of malpractice,” observed Dr. Michael A. LeNoir, president of the National Medical Association (NMA), the nation’s premier membership organization for African American physicians.

“Thankfully, the new health insurance marketplaces have gone live today, so there is a silver lining to this dark cloud. We urge all Americans to visit www.healthcare.gov so they can at least plan to protect themselves by obtaining affordable health insurance. We would also urge Congressional Republicans to abandon their crusade to repeal or delay the Affordable Care Act, so that government operations can resume this week,” he concluded.

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Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association(NMA) is a national professional and scientific organization representing over 37,000 African American physicians who are committed to improving the quality of health among minorities and disadvantaged people through its membership, professional development, community health education, advocacy, research and partnership with federal and private agencies. The NMA has repeatedly advocated for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people. For more information about the NMA, visit www.NMAnet.org.

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