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Affordable Health Choices Act is an Excellent Step toward Health Care Reform

July 15, 2009, Washington, DC...The National Medical Association (NMA) commends the Affordable Health Choices Act. The bill includes many of the provisions to which the NMA has long been committed. "Yesterday was a monumental day in the history of health care for our country with the introduction of America's Affordable Health Choice Act of 2009. The bill will provide unprecedented coverage for all Americans. This is especially important for communities of color who are a disproportionate share of the uninsured," said Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., MS, president, National Medical Association. "There are several key components that will benefit our communities across the country," she added.

"The NMA is pleased with the key provisions in the bill as it relates to coverage and choice, affordability, cost containment, and prevention and wellness. We commend Speaker Pelosi's exceptional leadership. In addition, chairmen Rangel, Waxman and Miller have done an extraordinary job on behalf of all Americans, given such a short schedule," said Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., MPH, executive director, National Medical Association. "The Affordable Health Choices Act is a bill that exemplifies true consensus amongst leaders in a timely and efficient manner," he added.

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Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association is the nation's oldest and largest medical association representing the interests of more than 30,000 African-American physicians and their patients. The NMA has repeatedly advocated for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people.