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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC OPTION IS HEALTHY CHOICE FOR NEW YORKERS

New York Urban League stands with the Congressional Black Caucus, National Urban League, NAACP, Rainbow Push and The National Action Network in support of health care reform legislation with a Robust Public Option

Thursday, October 28, 2009 – After over a year of unemployment Michael¹ had to make a choice no New Yorker should have to make. This 56 year old New Yorker was formerly employed in a specialized field and migrated to New York for his job. However, he is now unemployed and unable to receive government unemployment benefits. He has been forced to pay out of pocket for rent and medical coverage. Faced with the choice of losing his home and the security of medical coverage, he has chosen to liquidate his pension. This is an option not all New Yorkers have, and those that do, it is a choice no one should be forced to make.

Because of this story and those of other members of our community, the New York Urban League stands with the Congressional Black Caucus, National Urban League, NAACP, Rainbow Push and The National Action Network in support of health care reform legislation with a Robust Public Option similar to Medicare.

According to the New York Urban League's State of Black New York the prevalence of diabetes in New York City has doubled in the past 8 years. The report goes on to quote Mt Sinai School of Medicine's study that showed that asthma hospitalization rates are 21 percent higher in low income and minority communities. Lastly, the State of Black New York report discusses the prevalence of cancer. The National Center for Health Statistics states that African-Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial and ethnic group in the US for most cancers. The report goes on to say that these statistics can be reversed with early detection, and access to a primary health care provider.

Arva Rice, President and CEO of the New York Urban League goes on to say, "A public option similar to Medicare is important not only for African-Americans but for all Americans. Everyone gets sick, why shouldn't everyone have access to affordable health care so they can be cured?"

¹ Name has been changed to protect the client

To register your thoughts and opinions on health care legislation contact your Senators and Representatives: 202 224-3121.

Email: www.house.gov

Email: www.senate.gov

About The New York Urban League: (www.nyul.org) The New York Urban League (NYUL) has a rich history and long legacy of service to New Yorkers. The NYUL was founded in 1919 by an inter-racial group of concerned New Yorkers in response to the difficulties faced by African Americans migrating from the agricultural and rural south, to the industrial, urban centers of the north. Today, the mission of the New York Urban League (NYUL) is to enable African Americans and other underserved communities to secure a first class education, economic self-reliance and equal respect of their civil rights through programs, services and advocacy. Some of their signature programs include the Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner, the Whitney M. Young Classic and the Champions of Diversity Breakfast. The New York Urban League, Inc. is one of the local affiliates of the National Urban League, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, multi-ethnic, social service organization celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

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