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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressional Leaders Emphasize the Importance of Men's Health During the 13th Annual National Men's Health Week

9th Annual Health Screening Event on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 13, 2006 – Congressional leaders and their staffers set an example of health prevention by kicking off a week-long celebration of National Men's Health Week with health screenings June 12-18 on Capitol Hill. The three-day Congressional screening is designed to stress how simple, pain-free diagnostic tests can save lives.

National Men's Health Week (NMHW)—celebrated each year during the week leading up to and including Father's Day—sponsors activities in communities across the country, bringing together corporations, government agencies, religious and fraternal organizations, as well as others committed to the prevention and treatment of men's health issues. Hundreds of groups across the country host events during June to celebrate NMHW and help ensure a healthier future for our nation.

Recognizing that men are less likely to schedule annual screenings and physicals to discuss their health with their doctor, Men's Health Network (MHN) has launched a new website, www.checkmensfacts.com, which explores the conditions that often cause erectile dysfunction (ED). These conditions include diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. Information on the conditions, things to discuss with your doctor, and a survey of physicians and patients are all included in the website as well as other information to help understand the co-morbidity of ED.

For the past eight years, men's health screenings have been offered on Capitol Hill during NMHW, with more than 700 - 900 members, staffers and employees participating each year. "We're pleased that Congress continues to take such an active role in emphasizing men's health," said Scott Williams, Director of Professional Relations and Public Policy for MHN. "The purpose of National Men's Health Week is to heighten awareness of health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. The support of Congress and NMHW participants nationwide has enabled us to raise awareness of men's health issues in communities across the country. You can learn more about what's going on in your community by going to www.menshealthweek.org."

In addition to the support from Capitol Hill, more than 45 governors have declared Men's Health Week in their states. Copies of the Governor's proclamations can be found at www.menshealthweek.org under proclamations.

Men's Health Network is a non-profit educational organization comprised of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals. MHN is committed to improving the health and wellness of men through education campaigns, data collection and work with health care providers to provide better programs and funding on men's health needs.

For a list of NMHW events, to speak with a spokesperson, or for additional questions or comments, contact MHN at info@menshealthweek.org or (202) 543-6461, ext. 101.

NMHW Spokespersons:

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Minority Health, Public Health

Betty Gallo
New Jersey
Prostate Cancer, Public Policy, and the Role of Women in Men's Health

Sal Giorgianni, PharmD
Florida
Men's Health, ED and related health issues

Armin Brott
California
Parenting, Fathers

Vivia Font (Spanish speaking)
Role of Women in Men's Health

Ed Stephens, MD
New York
Mental Health

Harry Howitt, PhD
San Antonio

Mental Health, PTSD

Arnold Robbins, MD
Massachusetts
Chair, Men's Health Committee
Massachusetts Medical Society
Mental Health

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Family Medicine

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