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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS EMPHASIZE MEN'S WELL-BEING DURING 12th ANNUAL NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

8th Annual Health Screening Event on Capitol Hill Sets Example for Rest of the Country

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 14, 2005 – Congressional leaders and their staffers kick off a week-long celebration of National Men's Health Week with health screenings June 14-16 on Capitol Hill. The three-day Congressional screening is designed to stress how simple, pain-free diagnostic tests can save lives. Event supporters hope that participation by Members of Congress will help raise awareness of the rising and predominantly silent crisis in the health and well-being of men.

National Men's Health Week—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. A sampling of local activities planned for NMHW can be found at www.menshealthweek.org/activities.htm.

Recognizing that men are less likely to have health insurance than women, this year MHN has established a website, www.healthclinicsonline.com, that identifies free and low- cost health care for men and their families, including almost 4,000 health clinics.

"We're pleased that Congress continues to take such an active role in emphasizing men's health," said Melissa Wilt, Director of Public Policy, Men's Health Network. "Awareness of the need for men to make regular physician visits is a key goal of National Men's Health Week (NMHW). The support of Congress and NMHW participants nationwide has enabled us to raise awareness of men's health issues in communities across the country."

More than 300 members of Congress co-sponsored the "National Men's Health Week" Act in 1994 and Congress has remained committed to NMHW since its inception. For the past seven years, men's health screenings have been offered on Capitol Hill during NMHW, with more than 700 members, staffers and employees participating each year.

In addition to the support from Capitol Hill, more than 45 governors have declared Men's Health Week in their states.

Men's Health Network (MHN) 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. Additional questions or comments should be referred to info@menshealthnetwork.org or by calling (202) 543-6461, ext. 101.

Members of the MHN Advisory Board have volunteered as spokespersons during National Men's Health Week.

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