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Advocates and Lawmakers Announce Georgians for a Healthy Future, a New Health Care Policy and Advocacy Organization

GHF will be a Voice for Health Care Consumers in Georgia

ATLANTA, OCTOBER 22, 2009 – Today at the Georgia State Capitol, health care advocates, providers, lawmakers, and consumers met to announce the launch of Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF), a new statewide advocacy organization that intends to build and mobilize a unified voice for health care consumers in Georgia.

Cindy Zeldin, executive director of GHF, emphasized the group's goals when she spoke this afternoon. "Georgians for a Healthy Future fuses sound health policy with consumer advocacy to achieve the overarching goals of increasing health care coverage and expanding access to timely, appropriate, and affordable health care services to all Georgians," said Zeldin.

Led by a board of directors that represent a cross-section of Georgia's leading health care policy and advocacy organizations, including AARP Georgia, Voices for Georgia's Children, and the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, GHF hopes to be the go-to organization for lawmakers, policymakers, the media, and the public for all issues involving health access and health coverage in Georgia.

Zeldin, along with the GHF Board of Directors, feel that Georgia is long overdue for an organization dedicated to giving a unified voice to consumers on the health care issues that impact every constituency in the state. "There are many organizations in Georgia that focus on a single disease or area of the state, but until now there has been no group giving these different organizations a united voice for the health care and coverage issues that impact every constituency in the state, including rural communities," elaborated Board member Nannette Turner, vice president of the Georgia Rural Health Association.

Representatives from the groups listed above spoke in support of GHF at the Capitol this afternoon. Pat Nobbie, deputy director of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, stated, "The Georgians for a Healthy Future Board of Directors includes representatives from the most respected policy and advocacy groups in Georgia. This breadth of perspective is a profound strength and can bring voice to the healthcare concerns of all citizens in Georgia."

Kathy Floyd, Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP Georgia, added, "GHF will cut through partisan rhetoric about health care issues in Georgia to convey clear, fact-based information. By cutting through the clutter, GHF will simplify these complex issues for lawmakers and the general public."



In the coming months, GHF will continue to be a voice for accessible and affordable health care for all Georgians, and the need for GHF's mission is clear. According to the Georgia Health Policy Center, more than 1.6 million Georgians are currently uninsured, and Families USA recently announced that nearly 78 percent of uninsured Georgians come from working families.

Georgians for a Healthy Future was established in 2008 with a mission to build and mobilize a unified voice, vision, and leadership to achieve a healthy future for all Georgians. Georgians for a Healthy Future seeks to be a resource for lawmakers, policymakers, and the media in Georgia as they make and report the healthcare decisions that impact all Georgians. For more information on GHF, and about health care in Georgia, please visit www.HealtyFutureGA.org. Up-to-the-minute insight on health policy in Georgia can be found at our blog, www.HealthyDebateGA.org, by visiting our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HealthyFutureGA, by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HealthyFutureGA, and by downloading our mobile application by texting GHF to 53000.