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U.S. REP. FOSSELLA GIVES THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS FATHER'S DAY

Washington D.C., June 16, 2006— Men's Health Network (MHN) applauds U.S. Representative Vito Fossella (R-NY) today for taking over lead sponsorship of the "Men's Health Act of 2006." The legislation would establish an Office of Men's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of promoting men's health in the United States. The bill has a bipartisan core group of co-sponsors.

Representative Fossella commented, "As we celebrate Father's Day, we should also rededicate our focus on issues specific to the health of our fathers, grandfathers, brothers and uncles. An Office of Men's Health will serve as a forum for men's health issues and a central source of information for men across the country. I am proud to take over sponsorship of this important legislation."

Joseph Arite, Government Relations for MHN had this to say, "The health disparity between men and women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds continues to exist in terms of health and mortality, now more than ever steps are needed to improve on these numbers. Establishing an Office of Men's Health is the logical place to start."

According to a recent report from the U.S. Center for Disease Control, women's life expectancy rose from 79.7 to 79.8 years. White women have the highest life expectancy, 80.2 years, followed by black women (75.5 years), white men (75 years) and black men (68.6 years).

"Men simply need to be encouraged to go to the doctor and become more in tune with their own health. An Office of Men's Health would be the ideal tool to make this happen," said Betty Gallo, Director of Public Outreach for the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Center at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. "If such a step can be taken at the federal level, the result would be a positive trickle down effect to state and local communities."

"Illness and disease among men have significant impact on every facet of society," said Jean Bonhomme, MD, MPH and Men's Health Network Board Member. "Women and children are affected economically and emotionally by men's unnecessary disability and premature death as well as by health care costs. An Office of Men's Health has great potential for uplifting the health status of our nation as a whole."

The office will be designed to monitor and coordinate efforts to improve the health and well-being of men by streamlining government efforts on the federal and state levels in the areas of prevention, health education, outreach, and research. You can learn more about the Office of Men's Health and have the opportunity to show your support to your Member of Congress by visiting the Men's Health Office Resource Center at www.menshealthoffice.info. This office will mirror the existing Office of Women's Health which was established in the early 1990s, and has already improved the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of women.

Men's Health Network is a non-profit educational organization comprised of physicians, researchers, public health workers, and individuals. MHN is committed to improving the health and wellness of men, boys, and their families through education campaigns, data collection, surveys, toll-free hotlines, and work with health care providers. With a network of chapters, affiliates, and health partners, MHN has a presence in every state. MHN conducts screenings in the workplace and at public venues, sponsors conferences, and promotes awareness periods such as National Men's Health Week. MHN partners with both private and public entities to achieve these goals.

Ultimately, Men's Health Network has been known as the leading authority on men's health, with a Board of Advisors totaling over 700 physicians and key thought leaders on men's health, as well as a database of over 87,000 physicians nationwide to participate in disease awareness and educational outreach campaigns. and can be reached at (202) 543-6461 x 101.