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U.S. Rep. Fossella Discusses H.R. 5624 “The Men’s Health Act of 2006” at PHEN’s 2nd Annual African American Prostate Cancer Summit

WASHINGTON, September 21, 2006 – Representative Vito Fossella will be speaking at the 2nd Annual Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit hosted by The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) on September 21 and 22. The summit, being held at The Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C., will be addressing the disproportionately higher incidence rates of prostate cancer among African American men as well as the need for early detection and prevention.

The summit will be bringing together medical professionals, advocates, survivors and political leaders to focus on four main topics, “Why the African American disparity?”; “Outreach for Education, Awareness and Advocacy”; “Early Detection Screening”; and “Prostate Cancer Vaccines (immunotherapy)”. In addition to Representative Fossella, a number of other congressmen including Senator John Kerry and Representative Gregory Meeks are presenting at the summit.

Mr. Fossella’s speech will be focusing primarily on H.R. 5624 “The Men’s Health Act of 2006”. The legislation would establish an Office of Men’s Health within Health and Human Services, designed to monitor and coordinate efforts to improve the health and well-being of men.

Congressman Fossella commented, "This would be the best gift we can give to America's fathers, grandfathers, brothers and uncles- the gift of better health. Men are less likely to get a regular physical or seek medical attention for a health issue than women. As a result, men have a shorter life expectancy and more health challenges as they age. Men need to get into the habit of getting regular health screenings and visiting the doctor when they're not feeling perfectly healthy. An Office of Men's Health would serve as a forum for men's health issues and be a central source of information for men across the country. The Office would also allow the federal government to be more proactive in educating men about specific medical issues."

Men’s Health Network (MHN), a Washington, DC based non-profit committed to improving the health and wellness of men has been an avid supporter of this piece of legislation. Joseph Arite, Government Relations for MHN had this to say, “The health disparity between men and women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, especially African American Men, 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.”

To learn more about the Office of Men's Health visit www.menshealthoffice.org.

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Men's Health Network (MHN) 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. With a network of chapters, affiliates, and health partners, MHN has a presence in every state.