

For Immediate Release

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**DELEGATE MURRAY INTRODUCES BILL
TO ESTABLISH A "COMMISSION ON MEN'S HEALTH"**

WASHINGTON, February 14, 2006 – Men's Health Network (MHN) applauds Delegate Gareth Murray and Senator Gwendolyn Britt today for introducing legislation that would establish a "Commission on Men's Health" within the state of Maryland.

"The health disparity between men and women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds continues to exist in terms of health and mortality," said Joseph Arite, Director of Public Policy for MHN. "Now more than ever steps are needed to improve on these numbers. Establishing a Commission on Men's Health is the logical place to start."

According to the annual report from the Maryland Public Health Department, women's life expectancy rose from 79.7 to 79.8 years. White women have the highest life expectancy, 80.8 years, followed by black women and white men (76 years) and black men (68.7 years).

The need for a "Commission on Men's Health" is illustrated through the fact that:

- **Maryland men die at higher rates from Heart Disease and Cancer.**
- **In Maryland, among women married to men the same age as themselves, almost 15% could be widows as they enter retirement.**
- **1 out of 2 men will be diagnosed with Cancer compared to 1 out 3 women.**
- **The U.S. administration on Aging has found that more than one-half the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands.**

The Commission will be designed to monitor and coordinate efforts to improve the health and well-being of men by streamlining government efforts in the areas of prevention, health education, outreach, and research.

MHN hopes Maryland will take that pivotal step and follow the example of states such as Louisiana, Georgia, and Tennessee and install a Commission on Men's Health.

Men's Health Network was created in 1991 by nationally recognized men's advocates to provide a voice for those concerned about the growing men's health crisis. It is an informational and educational organization that recognizes men's health as a specific social concern and is committed to promoting issues affecting men's health and the health and well-being of their families and can be reached at (202) 543-6461 x 101.