



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Schneider – 443/703-1398

Homeless Persons and their Advocates Rally for Health Care and a Strong Safety Net

ANNAPOLIS: On Thursday, February 25, more than 400 health care providers, students, people experiencing homelessness, and advocates for the poor will gather at 9:45 a.m. in Lawyers Mall to urge lawmakers to strengthen health care and safety net programs. The rally brings together **Health Care for the Homeless** and the Maryland chapter of the **National Association of Social Workers** along with other organizations and individuals committed to reducing homelessness in Maryland.

Participants will advocate for dedicated resources for continued Medicaid expansion and for a strengthened safety net to assist those in urgent need. Speakers include legislators, activists, faith leaders, college students, and people experiencing homelessness. Throughout the day, participants will meet with elected officials to advance balanced and sensible solutions to the economic and health crises faced by a growing number of Marylanders.

“During difficult economic times, more people seek services from an already overburdened safety net,” said Jeff Singer, President & CEO of Health Care for the Homeless. “While we work for universal access to health care, permanent affordable housing, and incomes high enough to prevent homelessness, we also must protect and strengthen safety net programs that support vulnerable Marylanders.”

Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) provides health-related services, education, and advocacy to reduce the incidence and burdens of homelessness. Last year, HCH delivered medical care, mental health services, social work and case management, addiction treatment, dental care, outreach, prison reentry services, housing, and access to employment for more than 10,000 Marylanders at clinic sites in Baltimore City, Frederick, and Montgomery, Harford, and Baltimore Counties. Most HCH clients have incomes below federal poverty guidelines, and 75% are uninsured.

Members of the press are welcome to ride with us by bus from Baltimore to Annapolis. For more information on *Homeless Persons’ Lobby Day in Annapolis*, please contact Adam Schneider at Health Care for the Homeless at 443/703-1398.

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