



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST MEDSTAR HEALTH INC. FOR TERMINATION OF MEDICAID MANAGED SERVICE CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The NAACP DC Branch joined filing a Complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Civil Rights on Friday, September 10, 2021, urging them to investigate Medstar Health Inc.’s termination of AmeriHealth and CareFirst Medicaid managed service contracts as discriminatory based upon race, color and national origin by denying over 230,000 majority black and brown DC residents access to critical health care services and driving up costs threatening the Medicaid program. We further urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to refer the complaint to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Office of the Inspector General to determine if Medstar Health System has violated any other laws, rules or conditions of participation for Medicare and Medicaid. Led by Ambrose Lane Jr. of the Health Alliance Network, LLC and partnering organizations including, NAACP, The Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, DC and Vicinity, The Center for Racial Equity and Justice, The Baptist Convention of DC and Vicinity and The DC Alliance Empowering Homicide Survivors, we will host a **Press Conference on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 2:00pm on the Front Steps of the John Wilson Building.**

In 2020, Medstar's award of the DC Medicaid contract was protested. The DC Contract Appeals Board (CAB) upheld the protest against the award of a Medicaid managed care contract to Medstar Family Choice. In retaliation, Medstar Health System is deliberately terminating AmeriHealth and CareFirst contracts effective November 2021, which threatens access to care for many District residents who receive their health services through the managed care program. The DC Medicaid program is composed of 80% Black residents and 75% live in Ward 7 or 8. Medstar Health System operates Washington Hospital Center, Georgetown University Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital and multiple urgent care facilities. We need emergency legislation enacted by the DC City Council requiring all healthcare providers to accept Medicaid managed service as a requirement to operate in the District of Columbia.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “Medstar Health System’s deliberate termination of the AmeriHealth and CareFirst contracts, directly impacts and jeopardizes the health of many black and brown residents with chronic, pre-existing health conditions who need quality managed healthcare services. We cannot reward Medstar’s behavior by extending their contract through a re-compete. We urge the Council to take emergency legislative action preventing this discriminatory action.”

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