MEDIA RELEASE

NEARLY 158,000 MARYLANDERS ENROLLED IN HEALTH COVERAGE FOR 2017 THROUGH THE STATE MARKETPLACE

INCLUDING MEDICAID, 501,000 HAVE ENROLLED SINCE NOV. 1

BALTIMORE (Feb. 1, 2017) – A total of 157,637 Marylanders enrolled in private health coverage plans for 2017 by yesterday's deadline for open enrollment, capped by the largest single-day call volume ever for Maryland Health Connection, the state's health insurance marketplace.

Including Medicaid enrollments, more than a half-million Marylanders have newly enrolled or renewed in health coverage for 2017 through the state marketplace since Nov. 1 when open enrollment began. Maryland Health Connection now covers 1.1 million in all — one of every six people in Maryland.

Yesterday was the largest volume for calls to Maryland Health Connection with more than 20,500, eclipsing a 19,000-call volume day Dec. 15 on the deadline for Jan. 1, 2017 coverage. Coverage for people who enrolled yesterday begins March 1, 2017.

Traffic on MarylandHealthConnection.gov also peaked yesterday for this open enrollment, with more than 117,000 page views and 56,000 visits. The largest group online, 30 percent, was between the ages of 25 and 34. The next highest group, with 22 percent, was between 35 and 44 years old.

"We were gratified by the strong turnout on the final day of open enrollment and the solid response throughout the past 90 days," said Jonathan Kromm, acting executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE). "We very much thank the more than 1,000 consumer assistance workers and brokers, our participating carriers and hundreds of civic and corporate outreach partners for helping to ensure better health coverage and better health outcomes for Marylanders and their families."

MHBE operates the state's health insurance marketplace, working with the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), Department of Human Resources (DHR) and stakeholders statewide.

Other highlights of Maryland's just concluded open enrollment:

- Since Nov. 1, Medicaid enrollment through Maryland Health Connection totaled 343,542. People who are eligible for Medicaid can enroll year-round. The current Medicaid population in Maryland is 1.3 million. The expansion of Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act currently covers 274,159 individuals in Maryland.

- The 157,637 private plan enrollments and 274,159 Medicaid expansion enrollments total 431,796 Marylanders, more than half the estimated 745,000 population lacking health insurance prior to 2010.

- For 2017, 51,218 individuals enrolled in dental plans, either standalone or as part of their medical coverage. That was up 69 percent from 30,313 dental enrollments a year ago for 2016, the first year the state marketplace offered dental coverage.

- By age group, 30 percent of 2017 enrollees were in the 18-34 year-old population; 18 percent were 35-44; 20 percent were 45-54; 24 percent were 55-64; 3 percent were 65 and older, and 5 percent were under 18.

- Of the total enrollments, 62,979, or 40 percent, were new customers and 94,658, or 60 percent, were returning enrollees. After open enrollment ends, people can enroll only if they have had a qualifying "life event," such as marriage, birth of a child or loss of coverage. Details are available at MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

JURISDICTION	OPEN ENROLLMENT 2017 (11/1/2016 to 1/31/2017)		
	PRIVATE QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS	MEDICAID	TOTAL
Allegany	966	4,842	5,808
Anne Arundel	12,792	23,323	36,115
Baltimore	21,487	49,423	70,910
Baltimore City	11,281	59,457	70,738
Calvert	1,633	3,496	5,129
Caroline	652	2,671	3,323
Carroll	3,813	5,689	9,502
Cecil	2,102	6,385	8,487
Charles	2,769	7,788	10,557

Dorchester	647	2,892	3,539
Frederick	6,096	10,048	16,144
Garrett	735	1,982	2,717
Harford	5,308	11,262	16,570
Howard	9,403	11,710	21,113
Kent	457	1,123	1,580
Montgomery	41,983	48,883	90,866
Prince George's	24,226	60,087	84,313
Queen Anne's	1,237	1,956	3,193
Saint Mary's	1,426	5,166	6,592
Somerset	512	1,857	2,369
Talbot	1,125	1,912	3,037
Washington	2,822	9,812	12,634
Wicomico	2,132	8,145	10,277
Worcester	2,033	3,568	5,601
Out Of State	0	65	65
TOTAL	157,637	343,542	501,179

About the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange: The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, a public corporation and independent unit of state government, administers Maryland Health Connection. marylandhbe.com

About Maryland Health Connection: Maryland Health Connection is the state's official health insurance marketplace for individuals and families to compare and enroll in health insurance. Maryland Health Connection is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable. Enroll online at MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download the free Enroll MHC mobile app for Apple and Android devices.

Media Contacts
Andrew Ratner, Director of Marketing and Strategic Initiatives
443-827-6558, aratner@maryland.gov

Betsy Charlow, Deputy Director of Marketing and Web Strategies
410-547-6324, betsy.plunkett@maryland.gov