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For Immediate Release

**National Medical Association Welcomes Nomination of Regina Benjamin,
M.D. as Surgeon General**

July 13, 2009, Washington, DC...“The National Medical Association is extremely pleased that President Barack Obama has nominated Dr. Regina Benjamin as the nation’s next Surgeon General. Dr. Benjamin is a superb choice whose passion, intellect, dedication and creativity in providing care to impoverished patients in rural Alabama are well recognized. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the McArthur Foundation award, a prestigious award granted to those who make a unique contribution, often called the “genius award,” said Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., MS, president of the National Medical Association.

The NMA regards her as a woman of deep commitment who will be among the best health messengers the nation has seen. We look forward to working with Dr. Benjamin to improve the health status and health outcomes for all Americans.”

“She has been a longstanding member of the NMA and we are very proud of her work on behalf of the patients with little to no access to health care. Dr. Benjamin has seen and experienced first hand some of the most basic health care needs of our nation. She understands public health and what it will take to improve the health status of most Americans,” said Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., MPH, executive director of the National Medical Association. “Her scientific knowledge and integrity will serve our nation well, he added.”

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Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association is the nation’s oldest and largest medical association representing the interests of more than 30,000 African-American physicians and their patients. The NMA repeatedly advocates for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people.