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For Immediate Release

National Medical Association Receives Funding from Centers for Disease Control for Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative

Washington, DC, April 7, 2009...The National Medical Association (NMA) received funding for the next five years from the Center for Disease Control *Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative*. The Initiative--to increase HIV awareness among the general public and populations at greatest risk was launched today at the White House along with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new national communication campaign on HIV/AIDS, of which the National Medical Association is a participant, is a \$10 million, 5-year partnership between CDC and 14 of the nation's leading African-American organizations to increase awareness, knowledge and action to reduce the severe toll of HIV/AIDS in black communities. "We need to ensure the community is provided the knowledge and awareness and these resources will ensure this happens," said Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., M.S., President, National Medical Association.

Today, African Americans face the most severe rates of HIV infection in nation. According to the CDC, African Americans make up just 12% of population but account for nearly half of new infections (45%); and almost half of those living with HIV (46%). One in 16 African American men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime as will 1 in 30 black women. AIDS continues to be a leading killer of black men and women and is the leading cause of death among black women 25-34 and the second leading cause of death among black men 35-44. "Since the beginning of the epidemic, over 200,000 African Americans with AIDS have died. The NMA is committed to working with the CDC, the Obama Administration and others to highlight this national crisis and stop the spread of this disease in our community," said Dr. Niva Lubin Johnson, Chair, NMA Board of Trustees. "The NMA has long advocated for the resources to prevent and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in the community and this campaign is just what is needed in this fight", said Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., Executive Director, National Medical Association.

The *Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative* is a partnership with 14 of the nations leading African American civic organizations to integrate HIV prevention into each organization's outreach program. For more information on *Act Against Aids* campaign and partner activities please visit www.aids.gov or www.cdc.gov/hiv/aaa.