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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2018

African-American Leadership Convenes to Discuss Health Disparities

On September 11-13, African American leaders and major health organizations will gather at the State of Black Health National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia at the Westin Peachtree Plaza downtown. The purpose of the conference is to discuss solutions to reducing health disparities for African-Americans for high incidence rates for cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, and HIV as major health disparities impacting African Americans.

The State of Black Health National Conference is a rare convening of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P), National Urban League, National Medical Association. Representatives from these organizations will facilitate authentic discussion about the role economic and institutional injustices play on African-American health and well-being.

“Mainstream efforts designed to improve health are still less effective for African Americans,” says Delmonte Jefferson, executive director of NAATPN, Inc., the host of the conference. “It’s time to talk about the root causes of health disparities and advocate for policies and systemic changes to address and reduce poor health outcomes we are seeing.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), eliminating health disparities and improving the health of all Americans are overarching goals to improve and protect the nation’s health. The conference is a major step forward in the national pursuit of health equity.

Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D., current president of the National Medical Association will deliver the official State of Black Health address. U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, M.D., David Satcher, M.D., of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and Daniel Dawes, J.D., health policy expert are speakers who will contribute to the conversations to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of all Americans.

Community organizers and cultural influencers on the program include: Deray McKesson, founder of Campaign Zero, Jay Ell Alexander, CEO of Black Girls Run!, former rapper, Stic Iboimu, and Nathan Hale Williams, producer and director of *90 Days*.

The conference sponsors include Gilead Sciences, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Kaiser Permanente, Truth Initiative, Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and Clinical Scholars, among others.

For more information or to request a press pass, contact LaTroya Hester at lhester@naatpn.org at 404-409-5759.

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