

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HFA President, Paul Brayshaw hosts President Barack Obama's Backyard Health Care Policy Forum

Washington, DC: President Barack Obama held a backyard discussion on healthcare reform at the home of Hemophilia Federation of America's President, Mr. Paul Brayshaw. Paul, an individual with Hemophilia is a resident of Falls Church, VA. He opened the forum with a statement regarding the positive impact of the Affordable Care Act as it relates to individuals with chronic disorders. "Passage of the law removes the burdens or shackles. I won't have to depend on the job for health insurance coverage and I expect it will make a big difference in my life and in the lives of others that are affected," states Mr. Brayshaw.

Today's event highlights the six-month anniversary of the President's signing of the Affordable Care Act. The President brought together a cross section of individuals to display how the new law has impacted their lives. Participants represented business owners, parents of children with chronic conditions, the uninsured and individuals with chronic conditions.

Provisions of the new act have already begun, some of them include: the new high-risk pool program, implemented a reinsurance fund for companies that provide retiree coverage, and provided financial help to more than 1 million Medicare beneficiaries with high prescription drug expenses. Additional changes will take places this week:

- Young adults can remain on family health plans until they turn 26.
- Free immunization provided for kids.
- Free preventive care provided, such as mammograms and cholesterol screenings.
- No more lifetime coverage limits, and annual limits start to phase out.
- Plans can't cancel coverage for people who get sick.
- No denial of coverage for kids with pre-existing health conditions.

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The Hemophilia Federation of America is a national 501(c) (3) organization consisting of 30 member organizations and numerous individual members who offer assistance and grassroots advocacy on behalf of the bleeding disorders community. Incorporated in 1994, the HFA provides programs and services to improve the quality of life for persons with hemophilia and von Willebrand disease (VWD).

For more information, visit our website at www.hemophiliafed.org or call 1-800-230-9797.

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