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RESOLUTION MAKES JANUARY 19 PATIENT ADVOCATE DAY

Patient Advocate Day in Kentucky to Underscore Access Issues and Need for Healthcare Reform

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (January 19, 2007) — Governor Ernie Fletcher signed a proclamation declaring **January 19, 2007, Kentucky Patient Advocate Day**. The proclamation that Governor Fletcher signed is part of a national initiative by the National Patient Advocate Foundation to celebrate patient advocacy and brings to 16 the total number of proclamations signed by Governors nationwide. Patient Advocate Day affirms a State's commitment to stand in voice and action as an advocate for the patient, based on principles such as:

- Access to prescribed healthcare is a basic human need and a shared societal responsibility across all Americans
- All patients, even those experiencing financial hardship, need access to timely and sustained medical care
- A serious diagnosis should open a patient's door to relevant clinical information; access to the medical care system; help reaching informed and independent decisions, and the benefits of appropriate support
- Continued, collaborative, and creative efforts among all levels of government, private industry, health care providers, and citizenry are required to overcome the challenge of ensuring healthcare to those in need and obstacles to progressive, fair, fiscally sound, and effective healthcare for all.

Kentucky Volunteer State Policy Liaison with the National Patient Advocate Foundation, **Corey Kline of Lexington**, promoted the initiative with the Governor on behalf of Kentucky's patient population.

"I congratulate Governor Fletcher on behalf of all patients for his forethought and careful consideration of improving access to healthcare for Kentucky," said **Nancy Davenport-Ennis**, Founder and CEO of NPAF. "Our organization is a valuable resource to legislators and others who seek to advocate for better outcomes and better lives for patients, since we answer calls for help, in many cases, during and after a health or medical crisis. We work first-hand with the difficulties that cancer patients and others with life-threatening diseases face, and can show where reform is urgently needed. Fighting the illness is only one part of the struggle."

By signing the Kentucky Day proclamation, Governor Fletcher joins his fellow Governors from Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming, who have already proclaimed a Patient Advocate Day. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives became the first to issue a Resolution declaring a Patient Advocate Day on behalf of NPAF.

About National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF):

National Patient Advocate Foundation, established in 1996 and based in Washington, DC, is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving patient access to medical care through policy initiatives at the state and federal levels. NPAF works with a national network of volunteers who bring the voice of the patient via education and advocacy. Issues addressed by the organization include access to clinical trials and cancer screenings; ensuring that patient concerns are considered in the development of Health Information Technology; and expansion of State Medicaid programs to cover those that are uninsured when diagnosed with cancer. In formulating policy positions and priorities, the NPAF is guided by aggregate data collected through case management activities of its companion organization, the **Patient Advocate Foundation**. For more information, or to become a volunteer advocate, please visit National Patient Advocate Foundation at www.npaf.org.

About Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF):

Patient Advocate Foundation, established in 1996 and based in Newport News, Virginia, is a national non-profit organization providing free case management and mediation for access to care, job retention, and medical debt relief. PAF offers a Co-Pay Relief program to provide direct co-payment assistance for pharmaceutical treatments to those who financially and medically qualify.

Patients and families in need of mediation or case management related to a chronic or life-threatening illness can contact the Patient Advocate Foundation at (800) 532-5274 or by visiting www.patientadvocate.org.