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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TYLER ANNOUNCES HEARING
REGARDING CONCIERGE MEDICINE**

Baltimore, MD (December 1, 2008)... The Maryland Insurance Commissioner Ralph S. Tyler announced today that he will hold an informational hearing on December 19, 2008 at 9:30 AM at the MIA's Fraud Conference Room at 201 E. Baltimore Street regarding models of medical practices known as "retainer", "boutique" or "concierge" medicine. In these arrangements, the patient pays an annual fee in exchange for varying medical services.

"The central issue is whether any of these arrangements cross the line to trigger obligations as an authorized insurer," said Commissioner Tyler. "The MIA wants to be sure it understands these arrangements and will review the need for additional oversight or regulation."

A list of topics of investigation is contained in the Order issued today. The Commissioner is accepting written comments from interested parties until December 19 and is taking requests to testify. The Order is found on the MIA's web site.

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), founded as the Maryland Insurance Division in 1872, is an independent State agency located in downtown Baltimore. This agency regulates Maryland's \$26 billion insurance industry and makes certain that insurance companies, health plans and producers (agents and brokers) comply with Maryland insurance law. The MIA also licenses over 110,000 producers and approximately 1,500 insurance companies, regulates insurance rates, monitors insurer solvency, investigates consumer complaints and travels across the State providing consumers with educational materials on insurance. These materials may also be found at www.mdinsurance.state.md.us.