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**January 14, 2010 – For Immediate Release**

Community Discussion on General Assistance Medical Care

**Rochester, Minn.** – Residents are invited to join area legislators and local organizations in a community discussion about the impact of losing General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC). The event will take place 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 18, in the HB 117 Auditorium at the University Center Rochester's Heintz Center.

GAMC is a state-supported health insurance program that provides access to health care, medications and hospitalization for 30,000 low-income Minnesotans.

At the end of the 2009 legislative session, Governor Pawlenty vetoed one year of funding for GAMC and unallotted several more months of funding. This means that GAMC will have no funding beyond March 1, 2010. A temporary measure will be used to delay this loss of coverage, but many Minnesotans who rely on GAMC will still lose their health coverage within months or even weeks of March 1.

A variety of organizations will speak about the impact that GAMC has on the community. This group includes Pat Carlson, Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center; Paul Fleissner, Olmsted County Community Services; Frank Iossi, Mayo Clinic; Sue Morrison, NAMI Southeast Minnesota; and the Rochester Police Department.

Area legislators attending include:

- Tina Liebling, District 30A Representative
- Ann Lynch, District 30 Senator
- Kim Norton, District 29B Representative
- David Senjem, District 29 Senator
- Andy Welti, District 30B Representative

The event is being sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. Please contact Terry Schoonover, JRLC district 30 leader, at 507-398-9608 for more information.

**About Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center**

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center enhances the quality of life for residents in southeastern Minnesota by serving as a community resource for the understanding and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. The organization collaborates with government agencies, schools, non-profit groups and others to provide programs dedicated to improving the mental health of adults, adolescents and children. Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization serving Olmsted and Fillmore counties. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.zumbromhc.org](http://www.zumbromhc.org) or call 507-289-2089.

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