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STATEMENT: August 6, 2013

Statement from Rebecca Pearce, Executive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, regarding the decision by Aetna Health Insurance to withdraw its plans from Maryland's health insurance marketplace, Maryland Health Connection:

"The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange will launch the state-based insurance marketplace, Maryland Health Connection, as planned on October 1st. Aetna's decision to withdraw from health insurance exchanges in several states around the country, including its home state of Connecticut, has no effect whatsoever on our timetable. All Marylanders, including those who have been denied coverage in the past due to pre-existing conditions, will have a wide choice of more than 50 quality health plans with rates among the lowest in the country when they begin shopping for coverage in October through Maryland Health Connection."