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**Statement of Rebecca Pearce, Executive Director,
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange**

BALTIMORE (Tuesday, October 29, 2013)—Maryland Health Connection’s purpose is to help Marylanders obtain quality, affordable health insurance. While we have been pleased with the interest in Maryland Health Connection, we have not been satisfied with the performance of Maryland’s health insurance website, or with the pace of improvements to the site since it launched on October 1.

In response to our concerns about the site's performance, our prime contractor, Noridian Healthcare Solutions (“Noridian”) is making a number of changes, including increasing the resources devoted to the project. These new resources will provide additional information technology and project management support; additional expertise in electronic data interface with insurance carriers; and enhanced user testing capacity. The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange is currently working with Noridian to identify additional measures that may be necessary for the project's success.

We are committed to the success of Maryland Health Connection and to fixing the technical problems. We expect the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange board to meet in the days ahead to address these matters. We will continue to keep the public informed as we move forward.

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