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Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to Accept Award at Planned Parenthood of Maryland 9th Annual Spring Gala

BALTIMORE, MD (4/16/14)- Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) is honored to present the 2014 Betty Tyler Award to Maryland Governor Martin J. O'Malley for his outstanding leadership in protecting and advancing reproductive rights in Maryland. The award will be presented at PPM's 9th Annual Spring Gala event to be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 30th at The Four Seasons Harbor East in Baltimore.

"At a time when women's health and access to reproductive care is under attack across the country, Governor O'Malley has protected the rights of women in Maryland," said Jenny Black, President & CEO of PPM. "For his outstanding record of prioritizing Maryland women and women's health, we are happy to recognize the leadership of Governor O'Malley at Planned Parenthood of Maryland."

"Over the last seven years, we made the [better choice to set goals](#) to protect the health and well-being of women and children. Working together as one Maryland, we not only achieved our goal, we more than doubled it, driving down infant mortality by 21 percent since 2008," said Governor O'Malley. "By improving the health -- and the well-being -- of women, we are building a stronger future for all of our children and grandchildren. I am honored to receive this recognition from Planned Parenthood Maryland for Maryland's hard-won progress."

According to a report from the Center for American Progress, Maryland is the best state for women in America based on three factors: economics, leadership and health. During the O'Malley administration, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene implemented the Babies Born Healthy Initiative. This three-pronged initiative ensures women are healthy before, during, and after pregnancy by supporting access to high-quality family planning, screening and referral for Medicaid eligibility, WIC nutrition benefits, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence prevention and other screenings and referrals. Using this approach, Maryland has driven down infant mortality 21% since Governor O'Malley took office in 2007.

The Betty Tyler Award memorializes a woman without whom there might not be a Planned Parenthood of Maryland, whose 12 years of service led the Board of Directors from 1974 through 1986. PPM bestows the Betty Tyler Award on deserving trailblazers for women's health and reproductive justice in Maryland. The first award was given in 1988, and past awardees include Senator Delores G. Kelley, Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA, Delegate Peter A. Hammen and U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen.

Joining the Governor at the Spring Gala will be Alexis McGill-Johnson, Chair of the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, MD Attorney General Doug Gansler, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Delegate Jon Cardin, County Executive Ken Ulman, Delegate Jolene Ivey, Senator Brian Frosh and others.

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The mission of Planned Parenthood of Maryland is to enable all Marylanders to have access to a wide range of high quality affordable reproductive health care services. By providing medical services, education, training and advocacy, PPM seeks to help individuals make informed decisions about their reproductive health, family planning options and sexuality.