

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shriver Center Expands Capacity to Advance Health Care Justice

John Bouman, President of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, a national leader in advancing justice and opportunity for people living in poverty, has announced that the organization has expanded its health care justice team with the promotion of a new team director and the addition of two new staff. With the 2014 rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) now a reality, this expansion will help the Shriver Center broaden its expertise and deepen its engagement on health care issues to ensure that everyone in America has access to affordable and comprehensive health care coverage.

Margaret Stapleton, who has been an attorney with the Shriver Center since 1996 and has more than 35 years of experience, has been named Director, Health Care Justice. At the Shriver Center, her work has focused on public benefits, health care, child support, and former offender issues. In her new role, Stapleton will increase her focus on health care and provide leadership to an expanded health care justice team.

Along with Shriver Center health care justice experts John Bouman and Andrea Kovach, Stapleton is joined by new staff members Stephanie Altman, Assistant Director of Health Care Justice, and Stephani Becker, Senior Policy Specialist. Altman and Becker, who come to the Shriver Center from its partner organization Health & Disability Advocates, each have a long history of advocating for access to health care for vulnerable populations and translating health policy into action. Altman and Becker bring policy expertise in the ACA, including the Medicaid and Medicare programs, as well as a strong training and technical assistance background working with providers in the field. In the past three years, their work has been concentrated on implementing the ACA as part of the Starting Strong Collaboration, which is led by the Shriver Center, Health & Disability Advocates, and EverThrive Illinois, as well as other leading health policy and advocacy organizations and local foundations. Altman and Becker were instrumental in the creation of two nationally recognized health information hubs, Illinois Health Matters and HelpHub, which establish a feedback loop between consumers and advocates that will help inform the Shriver Center's efforts to shape health care policy.

"We are pleased to add these distinguished experts to our health care justice team," said John Bouman. "We are confident that they will significantly enhance our efforts to maximize the impact of health care reform on the quality of life of people living in poverty."

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (www.povertylaw.org)

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We specialize in practical solutions. Through our advocacy, communication, and training programs, we advocate for and serve clients directly, while also building the capacity of the nation's legal aid providers to advance justice and opportunity for their clients.

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