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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE OPENED OCT. 1

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, with the goal of expanding access to affordable health coverage to families and small businesses. The federal government is providing information for individuals to better understand the different components of this new law.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, a federal mandate will require all individuals and their dependents to acquire health insurance, or pay a penalty on their income taxes. There are a number of ways an individual can satisfy this mandate, including being covered by an employer-sponsored health plan, or purchasing coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. On Oct. 1, 2013, this new Marketplace opened in every state.

According to the Federal government, the Health Insurance Marketplace is designed to help individuals find health insurance that meets their needs and fits their budget. It is operated by the State and/or Federal government, and offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. Individuals may also be eligible for financial assistance through the Marketplace.

Residents are asked to contact Minnesota's Marketplace - MNSure – to receive more information and answers to questions regarding the Affordable Care Act.

Visit www.MNsure.org or call 1-855-366-7873 for more information.

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