



STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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## **Discussion On Sexual Assault Prevention Is Set For April 24** *Event challenges men to help end sexual violence against women*

BALTIMORE, MD (April 2, 2007) – Three male activists prominent in the movement to end sexual violence against women will help mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month during a panel discussion on April 24, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC), according to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

The panel discussion, co-sponsored by DHMH and GBMC, is entitled *Masculinity and Sexual Violence: How Men Can Play a Key Role in Preventing Rape and Sexual Assault*. The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Panelists will include Joe Ehrmann, Ted Bunch and Patrick McGann, three activists who combat sexual violence by promoting positive, nonviolent models of male strength.

Joe Ehrmann is a football coach at Baltimore's Gilman School, is depicted in the book *Season of Life* by Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Jeffrey Marks, and was declared "the most important coach in America" by *Parade* magazine for his inspirational work coaching young men. He played for the Baltimore Colts during the 1970s and is cofounder of the organization *Building Men and Women for Others*.

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Ted Bunch is the co-founder of *A Call to Men Inc.*, a national association of men and women committed to ending violence against women. Bunch has led workshops at colleges throughout the United States, helping men to take ownership and responsibility for ending sexual violence against women.

Patrick McGann, Ph.D., is the Director of Communications for *Men Can Stop Rape*, a national organization based in Washington, D.C. that mobilizes male youth to prevent men's violence against women. The organization's compelling public awareness campaign promoting male strength without violence became the model adopted by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault for the largest statewide campaign of its kind in the U.S.

Nancy Berill, MSN, manager of GBMC's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) program, is also a featured speaker. As a SAFE nurse, Nancy has treated numerous rape survivors and will offer sexual assault prevention strategies for both men and women.

A question and answer period will follow the panel discussion. Leaders of rape recovery and other organizations will be available to speak with the public at the conclusion of the event.

The discussion is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Simone Johnson, Sahara Communications, 410-576-7245 x 203.

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