Proclamation

GET COVERED AMERICA DAY

DECEMBER 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the world is facing the most significant health crisis in modern history due to COVID-19, which has also caused a global economic downturn, impacting people and their ability to access health insurance; and

WHEREAS, to slow the spread of COVID-19, individual and community health can be improved greatly by covering your mouth and nose, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing; and

WHEREAS, affordable, quality health insurance coverage ensures access to care and makes a material difference in the health and well-being of Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, access to health insurance is important because those without coverage are less likely to see a doctor when they become ill or for treatment of a chronic condition and forgo necessary care until their condition becomes intolerable; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded access to affordable, meaningful coverage to lower the number of the uninsured while also ensuring critical consumer protections and expansion of coverage to millions more Americans; and
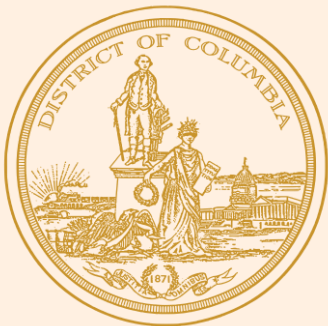
WHEREAS, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority, established by the District under the ACA, provides access to affordable, quality coverage and care through DCHealthLink.com to residents of the District of Columbia and District small businesses and non-profits which is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic conditions; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 are covered through DC Health Link's health insurance marketplaces in the District of Columbia and more than 80,000 District residents are covered through the District's expanded Medicaid under the ACA; and

WHEREAS, leaders from across America have joined to launch a national movement to help address the COVID-19 pandemic by helping people protect themselves and making sure all are enrolled; and

WHEREAS, Get Covered 2021 is an unwavering commitment to residents that keeps them healthier, safer, and stronger during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2020 as **GET COVERED AMERICA DAY** in Washington, DC, and encourage Washingtonians to guarantee access to health care through their securing of health insurance coverage.