



# AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION

## CALL TO ACTION

April 8, 2014

I, along with Sistah “Jackie” Dupont-Walker, Director of the Social Action Commission, want to thank the leadership and membership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for your cooperation and support in informing and enrolling members of our congregations and communities in the Affordable Care Act, referred to by many as “Obamacare.” Despite a disappointing and horrendous roll out and many untruths put out by opponents of the Affordable Care Act more than 7.1 million people signed up for the Affordable Care Act, which does not include many more who signed up through state exchanges. This defies the projections of many pundits who declared that the number of people who signed up would be far short of the goal of 7 (seven) million people set by the Obama Administration.

The Affordable Care Act or “Obamacare” is a godsend and major blessing to millions of Americans who did not have or could not afford healthcare. Previously the US healthcare system worked against many American citizens with prior conditions, young adults over 18 years of age, citizens with low incomes and so many others. But today, you cannot be denied because of prior conditions, young adults up to 26 years of age can be covered on their parents insurance and persons with low incomes can get health insurance, this includes millions who previously worked at jobs which did not provide healthcare benefits. Today, the United States joins other industrialized nations around the world which provides national healthcare for its citizens.

More than fifty times some in the Congress have tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act, claiming it is bad for America, will destroy the US healthcare system, cost millions of Americans their jobs and increase the cost of healthcare; not to mention create death panels. All of which are false. The real reason opponents of the Affordable Care Act wanted to repeal it and have been so derisive in their criticism of it, is because they know that once the Affordable Care Act begins to take effect American citizens will embrace it and support it. We are already beginning to see this, with latest polls showing support for the Affordable Care Act increasing to 49% the highest percentage since the law was enacted. Support for the Affordable Care Act will follow what happened with Social Security and Medicare, both opposed when they were passed, but try today to take either one of them away.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church did a tremendous job and set the example for other communions. Thanks to the Bishops who organized their Episcopal Districts to educate and enroll congregants, families and communities. Many of them arranged for personnel to visit each church to promote the Affordable Care Act. Thanks as well to Presiding Elders who organized churches on their Districts and to pastors who each week encouraged and organized to assist congregants in enrolling for the Affordable Care Act. We give special thanks to Senior Bishop John Bryant, who represented us in meetings with President Obama and other officials in the administration. The church offers great thanks to Sistah “Jackie” Dupont-Walker who led our webinars, participated in conference calls, coordinated with the church, attended meetings with administration officials, and a host of other things. I want the members of our Zion to know that The AME Church played a leading role in promoting the Affordable Care Act and should be proud of what we have done to assist as many people in getting healthcare.

Our efforts on behalf of the Affordable Care Act are an example of what the church can do to make a difference and promote social justice. We are God’s hands and feet and voice in the world. The Social Action Commission applauds Bishop Adam J. Richardson and the Eleventh Episcopal District for its leadership and efforts against the “Stand Your Ground” law in Florida. There are so many issues in our nation and globally to which the church must speak and act. Let us pray that God will use African Methodism to His glory and the promotion of His kingdom in the earth.

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

Chair, Social Action Commission