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***Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger and State Senator Jim Brochin Answer
Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan's Call to 'Honor the Promise' for Maryland Seniors***
Event June 25th at Mercy Ridge highlights support for reforms benefiting Seniors

WHO: U.S. Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD, 2) and State Senator Jim Brochin (D-42nd District)

WHEN: Monday, June 25, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: 2525 Pot Spring Road, Timonium MD 21093

The event is one in a series sponsored by Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan, Maryland's largest senior healthcare provider association representing more than 300 long term care organizations throughout Maryland and hosted by Mercy Health Services and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore, which jointly operate Mercy Ridge. LifeSpan's 'Honor the Promise' campaign started in 2006 and has received the support of countless senior advocates and elected officials throughout the State. Earlier in June, LifeSpan was honored to have Congressman Albert Wynn (D-MD, 4) and Maryland Secretary of Aging Gloria Lawlah join the 'honor the promise' campaign at an event in Temple Hills, MD.

The 'Honor the Promise' agenda specifically calls for broad based reforms on how Federal and State government supports seniors in need of comprehensive care. The goal of the program is to make long term care more accessible to the elderly while also working to ensure that seniors, healthcare workers and providers are given the necessary tools and incentives to succeed. Specific reforms included in the 'Honor the Promise' agenda include:

1. Expedite the process for determining Medicaid eligibility by updating Maryland's antiquated computer system. Simplify paperwork and reduce penalties.
2. Improve quality of care by stabilizing funding for all senior care organizations. Budget cuts threaten quality of care—and providers need adequate compensation.
3. Create workforce incentives to encourage individuals to work in senior care. The lack of qualified staff will have a profound, negative effect on future senior care.
4. Reduce regulatory and administrative burdens placed on senior care providers. Creative solutions, not draconian regulations, will stimulate innovative care.