

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W. ▲ Washington, DC 20009 ▲ (202) 986-2400 ▲ Telefax (202) 986-2513

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2009

CONTACT: Ashley Chaney

202-986-2400

achaney@deltasigmatheta.org

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Congratulates Member, Regina Benjamin, On United States Surgeon General Nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., extends congratulations to member, Regina Benjamin, on her nomination for the position of United States Surgeon General.

The 96-year-old public service Sorority is the single largest African-American women's organization in the country. Benjamin was initiated into the organization in 1976 through the Gamma Alpha Chapter at Xavier University in New Orleans, La.

President Obama nominated Benjamin to serve as the United States Surgeon General on July 13, 2009. Currently, she is the founder and CEO of the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Alabama, which aims to provide primary care to people of any age regardless of their financial situation.

“The members of Delta Sigma Theta congratulate our soror, Dr. Regina Benjamin, on receiving this deserving nomination,” said Butler-McIntyre. “Her compassionate approach to healthcare exemplifies the Sorority’s mission of service and continues to build upon the legacy of Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Dr. Alexa Canady, Dr. Velma Scantlebury and other phenomenal physicians of Delta Sigma Theta. Her work in the field of healthcare is a shining example of our biennial theme, *‘A Sisterhood Called to Serve: Transforming Lives, Impacting Communities.’*”

Benjamin attended Morehouse School of Medicine and went on to earn a medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's in business administration from Tulane. She served as associate dean for rural health at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. In 1995, Benjamin became the first physician under the age of 40 and the first African-American woman to be named to the American Medical Association's Board of Trustees. In 2002, she became president of the Alabama State Medical Association. Benjamin has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the MacArthur Genius Award.

The Sorority is encouraging members to monitor Benjamin's confirmation process and to lend their support and prayers to her during this time. Further advocacy initiatives will be announced at a later date.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has members in more than 900 chapters worldwide. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs.

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