



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HEALTH GAP'S COO RENEE MAHAFFEY HARRIS PARTICIPATES ON HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSING HEALTH DISPARITIES AT RAINBOW PUSH COALITION CONVENTION**

CINCINNATI – June 14, 2018 – Renee Mahaffey Harris representing The Center for Closing the Health Gap will participate in a panel discussion on “Repairing Health Disparities and Despondent Health Care” during the Health Breakfast on Friday, June 15, 2018 at the Rainbow Push Coalition 47<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention. Mahaffey-Harris is the chief operating officer at the Health Gap.

Mahaffey-Harris will explain how the Cincinnati-based Health Gap, a community-based grassroots organization, is fighting to close the widening gap of health disparities in the African-American community. Despite the work that has been done in Cincinnati and across the nation, health disparities between whites and blacks is not lessening, but are either stagnant or digressing.

For example, African-Americans are 2.49 times and Latinos are 1.38 times more likely than Whites to live in neighborhoods without access to full service grocery stores. People who suffer from lack of access to grocery stores are more than likely to die from diet related deaths. Those deaths include: Specific cancers, Diabetes, Obesity, Heath Diseases, Specific Types of Strokes, Osteoporosis, Anaemia, High Cholesterol, Kidney Diseases, Brain Injuries and Aneurysms.

The Healthcare Breakfast moderated by Congressman Danny K. Davis will occur on Friday, June 15, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago located at 151 East Upper Wacker Drive.

**About the Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati**

The Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati promotes awareness about health disparities through education, training, advocacy and outreach activities for organizations and individuals in Greater Cincinnati. The community-health grassroots organization maximizes collaborative opportunities by working with organizations, associations, health institutions and other stakeholders to promote health and disease prevention. The Health Gap's goal is to improve the health status of the African American, Latino and Appalachian populations.