



For Immediate Release

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**Nationally Recognized Expert on Social Determinants of Health to Speak at
Endowment for Health Annual Meeting**

Concord, NH – Dr. Anthony B. Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., is slated to speak at the Endowment for Health Annual Meeting on March 15 (see time and location below). In his keynote address, Dr. Iton will discuss the health factors known as social determinants of health.

“Our health is largely determined within the context of where we live,” says Dr. Iton, who is senior vice president of Healthy Communities at the California Endowment. “Communities that lack even the most basic ingredients for health, such as safe parks and access to healthy foods, are especially vulnerable to higher prevalence rates of Type 2 diabetes and other costly, preventable health conditions.” Iton says that strategic investments and good public policies can substantially change these odds. Dr. Iton has been featured in the PBS documentary, *Unnatural Causes*, a nationally broadcast series on the social factors affecting overall health.

The topic of social determinants is especially timely here in New Hampshire, according to Endowment for Health President James W. Squires, M.D. “The social factors that affect an individual’s health are found in rural locations as easily as they are found in urban ones,” says Squires. “Here in New Hampshire, a new study indicates that Coos, Sullivan and Carroll counties have the lowest health outcomes in the state, due in large part to their rurality, as well as disparities in income and education”

County Health Rankings, the study to which Squires alludes, comprises national data on community health. The study is a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It examines county health outcomes for all 50 states, measuring such factors as mortality, low birth weight, adult smoking and obesity, binge drinking, unemployment and income inequality. These and many other social and health factors determine overall health.

For more on the *County Health Rankings* study, go to: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
For New Hampshire specific data, go to: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/new-hampshire>

**Endowment for Health Annual Meeting
March 15, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
(Networking Reception at 3:30, Program at 4:15)
Grappone Conference Center / Courtyard by Marriott
Concord, NH
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The Endowment for Health was established in 1999. Since 2001, the Endowment has awarded over 700 grants totaling more than \$30 million to support a wide range of health-related programs and projects in New Hampshire. For more information about proposal guidelines and funding priorities for the 2009 program year, visit www.endowmentforhealth.org