

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Lisa Todorovich, Asst. Dir., Communications
434.243.4096; cell: 434.409.1327
ltodorovich@virginia.edu

Kim Curtis, Communications Assistant
434.243.2985; kcurtis@virginia.edu

Debate: Is Health Care a Right?

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., March 20, 2008— On Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 PM, the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in partnership with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, will hold the fourth event of its National Discussion and Debate Series. At Boston's historic Faneuil Hall, four participants will argue the proposed resolution: *"Americans have a fundamental right to health care and it is the obligation of government to secure that right"* in a debate moderated by **Susan Dentzer**, Health Correspondent for PBS's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

Supporting the resolution:

- **JudyAnn Bigby, MD**, Secretary of health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- **Regina Herzlinger**, Nancy R. McPherson Professor of Business Administration Chair, Harvard Business School

Opposing:

- **Richard K. Arme**y, Chairman, FreedomWorks, former U.S. House Majority Leader (1995–2003)
- **Richard Epstein**, James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor of Law, University of Chicago Law School

More information, including biographies of the debaters, research, lesson plans, news, audio, and video, is available online at www.millercenter.org/debates.

The debate, the fourth in a series of five set to take place during the 2007–08 academic year, will be webcast live and archived, along with the transcript, on the Miller Center's web site (www.millercenter.org). It will be broadcast on PBS analog and digital channels nationwide (*check local listings for details*). The conversation has already started online, via interactive group pages on YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Google, and Yahoo.

The National Discussion and Debate Series, the Miller Center's newest initiative, addresses major issues facing the United States, including Iraq, privacy, religion, and immigration. Its aim is to examine these issues in depth, and to contribute to the national conversation with a genuine, thoughtful give-and-take that will both enlighten people and provoke dialogue.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* called our religion debate "the real thing" in a March 9 editorial (<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/opinion/editorials/more.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-03-09-0098.html>):

"The format encouraged civility, and produced rhetoric that moved beyond soundbites. It created a buzz. Attendees debated the debate as they left the Jefferson Hotel -- and continued jawing the next morning. Only a few slipped on their boxing gloves. Nobody needed Keith Olbermann or Bill O'Reilly to tell them what to think -- or, to be precise, to distract them from actual thought. ...So, who won? Don't ask us. Tune in, then decide."

The first debate, on keeping American troops in Iraq, took place on Sept. 18 in the historic Dome Room of the University of Virginia's Rotunda in Charlottesville, Va. The second, on privacy and national security, occurred on Nov. 13 in Washington, D.C. The third, on religion and public life, took place on March 6 in Richmond, Va. The final debate, on immigration, will take place on May 15 in New York.

Video and transcripts are archived online:

<http://www.millercenter.org/debates/iraq>

<http://www.millercenter.org/debates/privacy>

<http://www.millercenter.org/debates/religion>

<http://www.millercenter.org/debates>

<http://www.macneil-lehrer.com>

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

#####