

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **CATANIA RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD**

**COUNCILMEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY WORK ON HEALTHCARE; SAYS DISTRICT MUST FOCUS ON OBESITY**

**Washington, D.C.** – Councilmember David Catania (At-Large) received the “Distinguished Public Official” award at the District of Columbia Primary Care Association’s (DCPCA) Tenth Annual Legislative Meeting. Catania was honored for his work on a variety of healthcare issues, as well as for his successful tenure as Chair of the Council’s Committee on Health.

“It is an honor to be recognized by an organization for which I have deep admiration,” said Catania. “DCPCA is performing critical advocacy on behalf of our residents, and I am thankful for their work.”

While receiving the award, Catania discussed his personal journey in the field of healthcare and how that influenced his decision to seek public office. He also reiterated his belief that the District must do more to address the issue of obesity. Later this year, Catania will be kicking off a first of its kind school health initiative in the District.

“Obesity and the health issues associated with it are substantially diminishing the length and quality of life for far too many District residents,” explained Catania. “It is time for the public health community and the government to refocus our efforts to combat this epidemic.”

DCPCA is a not-for-profit healthcare organization dedicated to increasing access to primary healthcare in the District of Columbia. It was founded in 1996. The 2007 Annual Meeting featured keynote speaker Dr. Maya Angelou. The ceremony took place at Kellogg Conference Hotel on the campus of Gallaudet University.

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