

VINCENT DEMARCO

Vincent DeMarco is the President of the Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative, a coalition of over 1000 organizations seeking to insure quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. The Initiative was the lead organization working for the Governor's Working Families and Small Business Health Care Coverage Act of 2007 which expanded health care to over 100,000 uninsured Marylanders. He is also the National Coordinator of Faith United Against Tobacco, a coalition of national faith groups that helped to enact the landmark 2009 law that authorizes the FDA to regulate tobacco products. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. His work is the subject of a book by national advocacy leader Michael Pertschuk entitled "The DeMarco Factor: Transforming Public Will Into Political Power", published by Vanderbilt University Press and the American Public Health Association

Mr. DeMarco was previously executive director of a two-year project known as the Maryland Children's Initiative that brought together over 350 organizations in Maryland to successfully promote an increase in the state cigarette tax in that saved thousands of children from becoming addicted to tobacco. He has also been a leader of the state and national anti-gun violence movement. Between January of 1995 and June of 1997, he was the Director of Community Outreach for Handgun Control, Inc., a national anti-gun violence group chaired by Sarah Brady, where he created a coalition of over 100 national organizations to defeat the gun lobby's effort to repeal the national assault weapons ban. Between January 1992 and December of 1994, Mr. DeMarco built a statewide coalition in Maryland of over 160 organizations which lobbied successfully for several life-saving gun violence prevention laws. Mr. DeMarco has been a speaker for national organizations and state groups across the country on how to successfully advocate for public health issues. The October 2000 issue of the Journal of the American Public Health Association contains an Editorial by Mr. DeMarco and Glenn Schneider on this topic.

Mr. DeMarco's efforts to reduce gun violence and teen smoking and expand health care coverage have been widely recognized. For example: the Baltimore *Sun* named him 1988 Marylander of the Year; the Washington *Post* described his advocacy work in a feature article in March of 1994; in August of 2000, the *Baltimore Magazine* named him Baltimore's "Best Advocate" for his work on reducing gun violence and teen smoking; on May 6, 2001, the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council awarded him its Reverend Bryce Shoemaker "Ecumenical Leadership Award" for his work with the faith community on important issues; in January of 2007, he received Families USA's Consumer Health Advocate of the Year Award; on January 14, 2010, he received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keepers' Award; and on March 26, 2010 he was named Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter. He was also named one of Maryland's "60 Most Influential" leaders for 2010 by the Daily Record.

Between October of 1983 and December of 1991, Mr. DeMarco was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland. While advising the Home Improvement Commission, he helped to draft and lobby for enactment of the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund, which compensates homeowners for losses caused by contractor's poor or incomplete work. Mr. DeMarco also served in the Consumer Protection Division where he brought charges against unscrupulous car repair shops and telemarketers.

Mr. DeMarco received a BA in Political Science and an MA in American History from the Johns Hopkins University. He also received a JD Columbia Law School where he was an Editor of the Columbia Law Review and is a Member of the Bar in Maryland and New Jersey. He clerked for Chief Justice Robert Wilentz of the New Jersey Supreme Court. He also tutored disadvantaged children for many years through the Johns Hopkins Tutorial Project.

Mr. DeMarco lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with his wife, Molly Mitchell, who is the Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a member of the Homewood Friends Quaker Meeting in Baltimore.