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**STATEMENT OF ACAP CEO MARGARET A. MURRAY ON THE
*STABILIZE MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE ACT***

WASHINGTON – Margaret A. Murray, Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), issued the following statement after the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act* was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Gene Green (D-Texas) and Joe Barton (R-Texas). The bill would stabilize coverage for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries by providing 12 months of continuous enrollment for all Americans who qualify for either program.

“ACAP applauds Representatives Green and Barton for their leadership in seeking to provide Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries with a source of coverage they can count on, stabilizing health care services for those who need it most.

“Every year, millions of Americans who are otherwise eligible for coverage through Medicaid or CHIP are thrown off the program owing to tiny changes in income, or issues with paperwork. Most regain coverage later, but often incur higher-cost, higher-need services as a result of this interruption in coverage. Studies show that this “churning” has pernicious effects on patient health, taxes providers and health plans with unnecessary red tape, and leads to needlessly higher costs for taxpayers. That’s why ACAP has called for a solution such as this for the past several years.

“Providing 12 months’ of continuous enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP brings these critical programs in line with private health plans, Medicare and other health care programs. We call upon other Members of Congress to join Reps. Barton and Green and promptly pass the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act*.

“Low-income and vulnerable families deserve coverage they can count on.”

More information about “churn” is available at coverageyoucancounton.org.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 58 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve more than ten million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

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