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**STATEMENT OF ACAP CEO MARGARET A. MURRAY ON THE
*MEDICAID AND CHIP CONTINUOUS QUALITY ACT OF 2014***

WASHINGTON – Margaret A. Murray, Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), issued the following statement after the *Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Quality Act of 2014* was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-W.V.). The bill would provide twelve-month continuous enrollment for people eligible for Medicaid and CHIP and direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish standardized quality measures of the care provided to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries:

“ACAP applauds Senator Rockefeller for his efforts to provide Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries with reliable health insurance coverage and establish uniform quality measures for the Medicaid and CHIP program.

“This bill would immediately address the issue of ‘churn’ in Medicaid and CHIP. Millions of Americans who are otherwise eligible for coverage through Medicaid or CHIP are administratively removed from the program owing to tiny changes in income or red tape. Churn leads to higher monthly medical expenses for affected beneficiaries and is associated with poorer health outcomes.

“Twelve-month continuous enrollment also eases the administrative burden on health care providers and reduces the resources that health plans and state Medicaid programs must devote to processing new memberships or applications, and verifying and re-verifying eligibility. This bill will lead to more efficient, effective use of scarce public health care resources.

“The *Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Quality Act* would also create a mechanism to measure and evaluate the quality of care that Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries receive, no matter how it’s delivered—through a managed care plan, through primary care case management, or through fee-for-service. Reliable, systematic quality information has previously only existed in the managed-care sector of Medicaid. Expanding it across all delivery systems would help state officials direct resources to quality improvement efforts, better inform patients when they choose a doctor, and show everyone with a stake in Medicaid and CHIP what works well and what could use improvement. It’s a provision that ACAP has called for going back several years.

“Providing 12-month 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 all Senators to join Senator Rockefeller and promptly pass the *Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Quality Act*.”

About ACAP

ACAP represents 57 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve nearly ten million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public health programs. Visit www.communityplans.net or www.coverageyoucancounton.org for more.

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