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STATEMENT OF ACAP CEO MARGARET A. MURRAY ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICAID

WASHINGTON— Margaret A. Murray, Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), issued the following statement commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, which provided Federal authorization for the Medicaid program:

“Medicaid has been a lifeline for millions of individuals and families across the United States. It’s played a critical role in helping people lead healthier, happier and more productive lives. And it’s touched far more lives than people realize: nearly 2 of every 3 Americans have either benefited from Medicaid, or know someone who has.”

“Over the past 50 years, Medicaid has evolved significantly to serve more diverse populations than ever before. And the program has also been a living laboratory: the Federal-state partnership at the heart of the program has allowed states to experiment, design and tailor benefits and learn what works best and replicate successes from other states.

“One such success has been the introduction of managed care to Medicaid programs across the country. Today, managed care organizations serve people with Medicaid in 48 states and the District of Columbia, delivering integrated benefits to more than 6 in 10 people with Medicaid. Safety Net Health Plans serve a broader array of populations than ever before, about one-third of all people in Medicaid managed care. They provide prenatal services to expecting mothers – and some provide managed long-term services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

“States contracting with Safety Net Health Plans and other managed care organizations to serve people with Medicaid have found that managed care plans offer [powerful levers for improving quality](#). And managed care organizations can find ways to think a outside the box to [reform mechanisms for delivering care](#), or developing innovative approaches to [addressing social determinants of health](#).

“That’s why ACAP is proud of the work Safety Net Health Plans have already done to lead the way in transforming how Medicaid works—and will continue to do so for the next 50 years.

“ACAP is also proud of its efforts in conjunction with the Partnership for Medicaid, which has marked today by delivering a letter signed by more than 200 national and state leaders praising the positive effects that Medicaid has had on the nation’s health over the past 50 years. We’re proud to sustain the call for policymakers to preserve and strengthen this vital program for the next 50 years.”



To read the Partnership for Medicaid letter in full, visit www.medicaidat50.org.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 60 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve more than fifteen million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

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