



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

October 5, 2015

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**STATEMENT OF ACAP CEO MARGARET A. MURRAY ON S. 2104, THE *PROTECTING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE FOR ALL MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES ACT***

WASHINGTON—Today, ACAP Chief Executive Officer Margaret A. Murray issued the following statement on S. 2104, the Protecting Medicare Advantage for all Medicare Beneficiaries Act, introduced earlier this week by Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Senator Bob Casey (D-Pa.):

“We’re delighted that Senators Portman and Casey are taking the lead in efforts to improve the Star rating program in a way that recognizes the fundamental differences between delivering care to dual eligibles and members of the Medicare Advantage population at large.

“ACAP Safety Net Health Plans participating in Medicare advantage focus their care management and service delivery on high-need, high-cost, full-benefit dual-eligible beneficiaries. Safety Net Health Plans offer tailored care management and integration services that dual eligibles cannot receive through traditional Medicare, and which keep dual-eligible beneficiaries from falling through the cracks between the two programs. Dual-eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) are an opportunity for these beneficiaries to receive better-coordinated, higher-quality care than they would otherwise receive through fee-for-service arrangements.

“We have noted repeatedly – and research by CMS has affirmed -- a negative association between performance on quality measures and enrollment of individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. We believe this shows D-SNPs to be at a structural disadvantage compared to those that serve Medicare Advantage members whose care is uncomplicated by socioeconomic factors.

“Accordingly, ACAP applauds this show of bipartisan leadership by Senators Portman and Casey to implement an interim strategy for the Star rating program. We reiterate the need for a long-term solution that addresses the inequities in the Star rating program, and sustain our call for a Star ratings program that evaluates and compares all MA plans based on the quality of care they furnish, rather than on the underlying characteristics and needs of their enrollee population.”

**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](http://www.communityplans.net).

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