



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**MHPA Contact:**

Craig A. Kennedy, MPH, President & CEO

[ckennedy@mhpa.org](mailto:ckennedy@mhpa.org) | (202) 857-5771

### MHPA Applauds the House of Representatives for Prioritizing Medicaid in 'Phase 4' COVID-19 Legislation

WASHINGTON, DC (May 15, 2020) – Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the only national trade association with a sole focus on Medicaid, released the following statement in response to the House passing legislation (H.R. 6800), which includes several MHPA priorities for the next round of coronavirus response legislation.

“MHPA and its member health plans thank the House for its action on ‘Phase 4’ COVID-19 response legislation which builds on the Medicaid policies that were enacted on a bipartisan basis in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act 2020. As MHPA wrote in letters sent to Congressional leaders on [April 1](#) and [May 4](#), Medicaid must be a priority in any future legislation responding to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the passage of this bill is a good first step on additional Medicaid support that must be included in ‘Phase 4’.

MHPA is pleased this legislation includes an additional Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase, bringing the total enhanced Medicaid funding to 14 percent. Recent estimates have found that Medicaid enrollment is expected to increase by 10 to 20 million over the coming months and years. It is imperative that Congress provide an additional FMAP increase for states; rising unemployment and loss of income for an increasing number of Americans will result in a significant jump in enrollment for the Medicaid program that, in turn, will place significant and severe burdens on state budgets. An additional FMAP increase will ensure that Americans are able to enroll in and access Medicaid, and that state Medicaid agencies receive the necessary resources to support these individuals.

MHPA commends the House for including a moratorium for the duration of the public health emergency on the proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR) in its bill. During this time of crisis, states and Medicaid providers need certainty that their current Medicaid financing structures are not disrupted. As we have stated in past correspondence, MFAR has potentially grave consequences on health care providers, states, and beneficiaries. MHPA advocates for a complete withdrawal of MFAR, but at the very least Congress should place a moratorium on the regulation.

MHPA is pleased to see that this bill lifts the Medicaid payment exclusion for incarcerated populations. Due to crowded conditions, prisons are more susceptible to widespread COVID-19 infections. MHPA is very supportive of removing the Medicaid payment exclusion, which is a barrier to enrolling incarcerated individuals in Medicaid coverage. Ensuring continuity of coverage for individuals who are transitioning out of incarceration helps ensure coverage for COVID-19 related testing and treatment as well as ongoing management of other conditions.

Finally, MHPA is gratified that this bill includes additional support through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for hospitals and health care providers that have been acutely impacted by this public health crisis. Throughout this crisis, MHPA has consistently [called for](#) funding to be directed to Medicaid providers such as community health centers, behavioral health providers, and other safety net providers who are in financial and operational crisis. We must ensure that these providers are there for beneficiaries during and after this pandemic.

Again, MHPA thanks the House for making Medicaid a priority in this next round of pandemic-response legislation. MHPA will continue to work tirelessly with Congress in a bipartisan fashion to ensure any final 'Phase 4' coronavirus response legislation recognizes the unique needs of the more than 70 million Americans who rely on Medicaid and the states agencies that administer the program."

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## **ABOUT MHPA**

Founded in 1995, Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry through advocacy and research to support innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 90+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve approximately 23 million Medicaid enrollees in 37 states, or about one-third of all Medicaid beneficiaries in states with managed care delivery systems. MHPA's members include both for-profit and non-profit, national and regional, as well as single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. [www.medicaidplans.org](http://www.medicaidplans.org) | [@MHPA](https://twitter.com/MHPA)