



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MHPA Applauds North Carolina's Bipartisan Medicaid Expansion**

Washington, D.C. – *In response to North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper signing House Bill 76 - Access to Healthcare Options into law on Monday, MHPA President and CEO Craig Kennedy issued the following statement:*

“People with health insurance more often engage in preventive care, which helps to identify and treat conditions before they advance to costly, life-threatening diseases. With the stroke of a pen, Gov. Cooper and the state legislature are helping to save the lives of more than 600,000 vulnerable North Carolinians.

“In a state where rural residents are 40% more likely to be uninsured and 27% of mental health patients discharged from hospital emergency rooms were uninsured, expanding Medicaid eligibility and therefore access to quality and affordable health care through a managed care delivery system, will have a significant impact on the lives of people throughout the state's mountains, Piedmont, and Coastal Plains.

“MHPA applauds Gov. Cooper for his unwavering commitment to Medicaid expansion and the bipartisan efforts of the North Carolina state legislature for working together to get this much-needed legislation across the finish line. We hope that North Carolina can be the latest in a long line of successful examples to the remaining states that have not expanded Medicaid or adopted managed care.”

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### **About MHPA**

Founded in 1995, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) is the only national association that solely represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry. Through its

advocacy and research work, MHPA supports innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 130+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve more than 49 million Medicaid enrollees in 40 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. 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. Visit [medicaidplans.org](https://www.medicaidplans.org) for more information.