



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland Joins
Medicaid Health Plans of America**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland has joined Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the nation’s leading trade association focused exclusively on Medicaid health plans, as a new health plan organization member.

One of the nation’s largest not-for-profit healthcare organizations in the Mid-Atlantic region, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield works to ensure that healthcare is easy to afford, easy to use, and available to everyone. It covers 97,000 Medicaid enrollees in Maryland alone.

“CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield’s membership strengthens our ability to develop policy solutions that enhance and advance health care delivery and equity for all. Its commitment to addressing health challenges through advocacy, innovation, and building partnerships that improve access to care; support good physical, mental and financial health; and reduce overall health care costs exemplifies our members’ focus and passion for improving the quality of life of Medicaid beneficiaries,” said MHPA President and CEO Craig A. Kennedy, MPH. “We are excited to welcome and work with CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland to address the unique, diverse health care needs of Medicaid enrollees throughout the state and beyond.”

“Championing the right to access affordable, quality care, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is creating solutions that drive better outcomes and support whole-person health and wellbeing. We are inspired to join MHPA to showcase the value of Medicaid managed care and look forward to collaborating with our fellow MHPA members to remove barriers to care and create incentives to place care at the forefront,” said Mike Rapach, Chief Executive Officer, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland.

Consistently ranked as one of the “World’s Most Ethical Companies,” CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield also invests in organizations and partners with community leaders, municipalities, and health systems to identify and address factors impacting health. As such, it is uniquely positioned to bring long-awaited change to the healthcare industry, make a meaningful difference in local communities, and influence the region’s policy dialogue to best support the health of all people.

Rapach and Sheila Yahyazadeh, Chief External Operations Officer, will serve on the MHPA Board of Directors where they will help to oversee MHPA's strategy and operations, including the organization's public policy and government relations activities with Congress, state legislatures and regulatory agencies, the Administration, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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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 150+ member health plans which serve more than 48 million Medicaid enrollees in 40 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. MHPA's members include for-profit and non-profit national, regional, and single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. Visit mhp.org for more information.

About CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

In its 87th year of service, CareFirst, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit healthcare company which, through its affiliates and subsidiaries, offers a comprehensive portfolio of health insurance products and administrative services to 3.5 million individuals in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. In 2023, CareFirst infused \$233 million in support of regional community impact to improve overall health and advance accessible, affordable, equitable, high-quality healthcare. To learn more about CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, visit www.carefirst.com.