



March 10, 2025

Idaho Senate Health and Welfare Committee

Re: House Bill 345

Honorable Chair VanOrden and Vice Chair Bjerke, and members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

I am Stephanie Myers, Director of State Affairs at the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) and on behalf of the MHPA, I wish to submit written testimony on House Bill 345, and show our support of moving Idaho's Medicaid program to comprehensive managed care.

The Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) is the only association solely focused on the Medicaid managed care industry. Through both advocacy and research, MHPA supports innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. We work on behalf of our 160+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), that serve more than 49 million Medicaid enrollees in 41 states, DC and Puerto Rico. Our members include both for-profit and non-profit, national and regional, as well as single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market.

At its core, Medicaid managed care exemplifies the public-private partnership that, through competition inherent to the bidding process – drives innovation and works to ensure that the state and federal dollars invested in Idaho's Medicaid program are used as effectively and efficiently as possible. Medicaid MCOs are partners in the delivery of care and services whether working with their partner states, the federal government, providers, community organizations, or Medicaid enrollees.

Cost containment guardrails are built into the managed care delivery system that provides budget predictability and stability that is not found in fee-for-service. Other financial benefits for states contracting with MCOs include aligned financial incentives, accountability, and limited financial risk. The state can also include unique requirements in their contracts to ensure that the services provided by MCOs are high-value and high-quality, such as value-based payment arrangements. MCOs are also accountable to their state partners through contracts that include enhanced performance metrics and data analytics.

Medicaid MCOs are uniquely positioned to provide holistic care to Idahoans through their care management and care coordination operations. Care management optimizes family and caregiver engagement including ensuring that communications with family and caregivers are transparent, clear, consistent, culturally appropriate, and take into consideration the issue of health literacy. Support provided by a care coordination team and consistent care management can help a child and family navigate multiple health care systems and providers to ensure access to timely and appropriate care.

In addition, MCOs can provide value-added benefits that include helping Idahoans with employment, such as funding to obtain their GED, dental services beyond what is in the Medicaid state plan, and incentives for completing wellness activities.



Understanding the value that managed care can bring to the state of Idaho, MHPA supports the provision in HB 345 that would move Idaho to comprehensive Medicaid managed care. Should this legislation pass, MHPA and its members look forward to helping Idaho successfully implement this new delivery system in the state.

Thank you for allowing MHPA to provide testimony. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [sdmyers@mhcpa.org](mailto:sdmyers@mhcpa.org).

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephanie Myers  
Director, State Affairs