



Michigan Association of Health Plans

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MAHP urges review of federal reform before the Michigan Legislature proceeds with state health care reform proposals

Given the recent passage of federal health care reform legislation and the many questions and complex implementation involved with that legislation, the Michigan Association of Health Plans recommended that a review of federal reform requirements be completed before proceeding with the state reform legislation introduced recently.

“MAHP commends the work of Rep. Marc Coriveau and Sen. Tom George and their bi-partisan approach to state health care reform,” said Rick Murdock, executive director of the MAHP. “We plan to continue working with both of their committee to advocate for affordable health care coverage options for Michigan citizens and believe their legislation may serve as the vehicle for transitioning Michigan’s implementation of federal reform.

MAHP is examining the federal and state legislation to identify features that may require transitional legislation and which features may no longer be necessary to be addressed in state legislation.

“The center point of the state package is expansion of coverage for those in the individual market. It appears many items in the federal reform will accomplish that goal, particularly provisions to expand coverage through Medicaid, dependent coverage, and changes in Medicare,” Murdock said.

Murdock also noted that the federal legislation also requires all insurance carriers to guarantee issue or effectively serve as the insurers of last resort. The sum of all of the federal changes will be far reaching and will likely require significant changes in the Michigan’s insurance laws. For this reason it is critical to view the proposed state reform legislation through the “lens” of federal reform.

The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) is an industry voice for Michigan’s health care plans. MAHP facilitates communication among members, government, and the industry regarding health care issues of common concern. The mission of the Michigan Association of Health Plans is to provide leadership for the promotion and advocacy of high quality, affordable, accessible health care for the citizens of Michigan.

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