



# Michigan Association of Health Plans

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept 14, 2011**

**Contact:** David Waymire  
517-485-6600

## **MAHP statement regarding Gov. Snyder's health address**

The following can be attributed to Rick Murdock, executive director of the Michigan Association of Health Plans:

**Overview:** From the perspective of MAHP members who provide health insurance to hundreds of thousands of state residents and provide Medicaid coverage to nearly 2 million persons, the governor's proposals address some of the most important issues facing Michigan. If implemented wisely, the governor's plans could help control costs and increase access to high quality medical care for Michigan families.

**Wellness:** MAHP members have been leaders in wellness programs, working closely with members to provide them with the information and advice needed to help them better manage their own health care, from diet to fitness to early diagnosis and treatment through regular checkups.

**Medical homes:** MAHP members through their networks set up "medical homes" for patients, driving specialist referrals through a primary care physician. Expansion of this concept needs to be done carefully, without development of unnecessary regulations that tie the hands of insurers and providers.

**Infant mortality:** MAHP supports the governor's Michigan Call to Action to Reduce and Prevent Infant Mortality. As key pieces of the state's managed Medicaid system, HMOs have already been on the front lines of this critical issue, developing many innovative ways to encourage at-risk women to engage in pre-natal and post-natal care.

**Insurance exchange:** MAHP supports the governor's call for an insurance exchange, the Michigan Health Marketplace, that does not add bureaucracy or complexity to the marketplace but makes it easier for consumers to find the health plan that best meets their needs and pocketbook. (MAHP's white paper on exchanges is at <http://mahp.org/resources/whitepapers/June2011.pdf>..

**Blue Cross reforms:** MAHP is pleased to join in the governor's review of the state's 30-year-old Blue Cross laws, which gives the company significant advantages over other health insurers in the state. The company has used those advantages to gain market dominance, and now is the subject of a federal and state anti-trust lawsuit for pressuring hospitals to give it preferred

**PRESIDENT**  
Kathy Kendall  
*McLaren Health Plan*

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Bruce Hill  
*HealthPlus of Michigan*

**SECRETARY**  
Randy Narowitz  
*Total Health Care.*

**TREASURER**  
Beverly A. Allen  
*OmniCare Health Plan, Inc*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

William R. Alvin  
*Health Alliance Plan*

Kimberly K Horn  
*Priority Health*

Dennis H. Smith  
*Upper Peninsula Health Plan*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Ellen Anderson  
*ProCare Health Plan*

Craig Bass  
*Molina Healthcare of Michigan*

David Cotton  
*Health Plan of Michigan*

David Livingston  
*UHC- Great Lakes*

Roland Palmer  
*Grand Valley Health Plan*

John Randolph  
*Paramount Care of Michigan*

Mark Saffer  
*Midwest Health Plan*

Scott Wilkerson  
*Physicians Health Plan-MM*

Sharon Williams  
*CareSource Michigan*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Richard B. Murdock  
*Michigan Association of  
Health Plans*

treatment while disadvantaging potential competitors, artificially driving up the price of health care in Michigan.

**Autism coverage:** MAHP members are strong supporters of evidence-based treatments. Determining effective treatments of autism can be difficult, and we welcome the state's guidance in determining which treatments bring cost-effective results and are worthy of providing, recognizing there will be costs that must be passed along through premiums. MAHP members are prepared to work with the Legislature and governor to provide more coverage options for autistic children.

**Medicaid/Medicare "Dual eligibles":** Care for this vulnerable population in Michigan costs more than \$7 billion annually. The governor's call for a managed care solution to this important issue is applauded MAHP members, who are ready and prepared to collaborate with the state to provide better and more cost-effective care for these seniors.

**BMI reporting:** MAHP members already use the state registry to provide Body Mass Index information for adults; adding children is a logical extension of this program.

*The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) is an industry voice for 17 health care plans, covering over 2.1 million Michigan residents, and 45 businesses affiliated with the health care industry. MAHP facilitates communication among members, government, and the industry regarding health care issues of common concern.*

###