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MAHP Appoints Lora M. Pellegrini to President & Chief Executive Officer

BOSTON, MASS — Lora M. Pellegrini today was named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP). In her role as President and CEO, Pellegrini will be responsible for providing leadership on a variety of public policy issues affecting health care and MAHP's member health plans. In addition, she will lead all aspects of the organization's functions, including operations and corporate compliance.

"Lora is a strategic thinker and proven consensus builder whose experience and credibility on Beacon Hill will be pivotal to her new role of leading MAHP into the next decade. She has done a terrific job as Acting President and we look forward to her continued success in her new role." said James Roosevelt, Jr., President and CEO of Tufts Associated Health Plan and Chairman of the MAHP board of directors.

Pellegrini has more than 25 years of experience shaping legislation and policy at the local, state and federal levels, and has more than 10 years of experience working within health plan organizations. Prior to coming to MAHP, she served as Chief Advisor for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs under Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, where she offered strategic advice and support to the Governor on a broad range of issues. In addition, Pellegrini previously served as Vice President of Government and Community Relations for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. She also served on the staff of Governor Michael Dukakis and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts Attorney General's office.

"I am honored that the Board has given me this opportunity to lead MAHP at this critical time. With recent reports released by the Attorney General and Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, policy makers have a unique opportunity to connect the dots about the factors driving health care spending in the state – including the fact that our costs are 15% higher than the national average and are largely based on provider costs without any correlation to quality outcomes or the complexity of a patient's illness," said Pellegrini. "The MAHP board and I are committed to working with public policy makers on comprehensive ways to rein in medical spending while engaging our plans' customers in this vital public discussion."

Rick Lord, President and CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts said "Lora has been a friend and colleague for many years. Her respect and credibility on health care issues within the business community is long-standing. She will be an important and credible voice for the health plans when dealing with my members."

William Vernon, Massachusetts State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business said "I have known Lora for over 25 years. As the daughter of former small business owners, she is acutely aware of the many issues facing small businesses in Massachusetts particularly as they relate to health care costs. Lora will be an important partner as NFIB looks for meaningful ways to lower health care costs for small businesses."

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A resident of Boston, Pellegrini is currently the President of the Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus, a statewide multi-partisan organization dedicated to getting women elected to office. She has also served as a member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and on a variety of charitable and health care organizations. Pellegrini received her law degree from the New England School of Law and holds a bachelor’s degree in government from Wheaton College.

Pellegrini replaces Dr. Marylou Buyse, who left the organization to become the Chief Medical Officer of Scott & White Health Plan in Texas.

The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans represents 11 health plans covering more than 2.2 million Massachusetts residents. It is dedicated to improving health for all in Massachusetts by promoting affordable, safe and coordinated health care.

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