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**Statement by Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, regarding House Bill 4743, An act relative to treatments and coverage for substance use disorder and recovery coach licensure.
June 12, 2024**

The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans and our member plans applaud Speaker Mariano and Chair Madaro for their tremendous leadership in continuing to prioritize and advance policies to address the persistent opioid addiction crisis in the Commonwealth. We appreciate the measured approach taken by the House in crafting this legislation, particularly the inclusion of a new licensure and oversight process for recovery coaches which will help to professionalize and set standards for this important work.

MAHP member health plans see the value of peer-based services, including recovery coaches, in assisting their members in their path to recovery, and are deeply committed to providing access to high-quality, cost-effective, and equitable behavioral health care for all Massachusetts residents. We look forward to continuing to work with House leadership to refine this legislation to best meet the needs of the Commonwealth.