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**Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the MA Association of Health Plans  
On Maternal Health Legislation  
June 18, 2024**

MAHP, on behalf of our 14 member health plans and two behavioral health organizations, commends Speaker Mariano and House Chairs Decker, Lawn and Michlewitz for developing maternal health legislation to be passed by the House that advances strategies recommended by the Special Commission on Racial Inequities in Maternal Health intended to reduce the unacceptable high rates of mortality, morbidity, and racial inequities that adversely impact birthing outcomes for residents of the Commonwealth. Provisions in the bill to require providers to screen women for postpartum depression for one year after giving birth will reduce stigma, increase awareness of maternal mental health disorders, and ensure more birthing people are referred to appropriate follow up care for diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, MAHP and our member health plans strongly support the directive for the Department of Public Health to develop comprehensive resources for perinatal individuals, providers, and the general public on perinatal mood and anxiety disorders as well as evidence-based treatment options including comprehensive mental health supports and medication.

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