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**Statement by Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, regarding Senate Bill 2871, *An Act enhancing the market review process*
July 18, 2024**

The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans applauds Senate President Spilka and Senator Cindy Friedman, Chair of the Health Care Financing Committee, for the passage of Senate Bill 2871, An Act enhancing the market review process. The bill provides an important framework for enhancing transparency and accountability across the health care sector, by adding both the pharmaceutical industry and private equity investors to reporting and oversight requirements under the Health Policy Commission and the Center for Health Information and Analysis. These enhanced data submission requirements will not only ensure a line of sight into all transactions in our marketplace, but hold pharmaceutical manufacturers accountable for the exorbitant increases in prescription drug costs.

Addressing the underlying drivers of health care costs is critically important to ensuring a sustainable health care system and making health care more affordable for employers and consumers. Senate Bill 2871 also makes a number of necessary changes to strengthen existing state tools, including making important reforms to improve the determination of need process and the Health Policy Commission's cost and market impact review process. The bill also gives the Attorney General explicit authority under the state's consumer protection statute to bring actions against health care entities that engage in practices that raise prices in the marketplace without corresponding value for patients. With a strengthened Health Policy Commission, free from conflicts, and greater linkages between the material change notice and determination of need processes, the bill seeks to ensure that transactions in our marketplace add value and do not simply increase health care costs for employers and consumers.

As the health care landscape continues to change throughout Massachusetts and affordability remains the largest challenge facing all stakeholders in the Commonwealth's health care system, Senate Bill 2871 represents a significant step forward in Massachusetts' commitment to delivering high-quality, affordable health care to all residents. As ensuring a sustainable health care system is a shared responsibility, MAHP and our member plans remain committed to ensuring access to high-quality, affordable, and equitable health care services.

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