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Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the MA Association of Health Plans on Health Care Laws

The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) congratulates Governor Healey, Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Senator Friedman, and Representative Lawn on the signing of these important health care laws. These measures strengthen the framework for health care market accountability by bringing previously unregulated market participants, like the pharmaceutical industry, private equity companies and pharmacy benefit managers under state oversight and enhancing coordination among agencies like the Center for Health Information and Analysis, the Health Policy Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Public Health.

We are particularly pleased with the enhanced authority granted to these agencies as it relates to the Determination of Need and Material Change Notice processes, which will improve oversight of transactions in our marketplace that can often translate into greater market leverage for providers and higher costs for employers and consumers. While these steps are crucial for improving transparency and oversight, the provisions in the bills do not address immediate concerns related to health care costs for employers and consumers.

Health plans cannot fix the affordability challenge alone. As over 30 state reports have identified, if we hope to reduce the growth of health care premiums and spending, the pharmaceutical industry, providers, and hospitals must be held accountable for their role in driving higher health care premiums. We look forward to working with key legislators and the Governor on this important next phase of health care reform in 2025.

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