



**CONTACT: Liz Leahy  
781-526-7756**

**February 27, 2025**

**Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the MA Association of Health Plans on the Massachusetts Health Safety Net**

“When Massachusetts enacted universal health care in 2010, the business community and health plans were promised that near-universal coverage would substantially reduce the need for a free care system. Yet today, with over 98% of residents insured, this promise remains unfulfilled. Instead, reliance on the Health Safety Net Trust Fund continues to grow, placing increasing financial strain on the system.

This crisis reflects the broader failure to rein in skyrocketing hospital and pharmaceutical costs, with Massachusetts hospitals among the most expensive in the nation. Hospitals, as nonprofit entities, have a legal and ethical duty to provide charity care, yet national data suggest they are falling short. A recent Lown Institute report found that 80% of nonprofit hospitals contribute less to their communities than they receive in tax breaks.

MassHealth is actively revising regulations to restructure Health Safety Net funding, including a new distribution formula among hospitals. Lawmakers must refrain from imposing additional financial burdens on employers and consumers through higher premiums until these reforms are implemented and have a chance to work. Likewise, hospitals must also demonstrate their commitment to cost control by adhering to the state’s cost growth benchmark. Now is the time for meaningful accountability—not for shifting more costs onto Massachusetts businesses and working families.”

###