



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **MAHP Health Plans Take Action to Increase Awareness of the ACCESS Law**

**Boston, MA** – Concerned by reports that health plan members are not fully utilizing expanded contraceptive coverage provided under a law passed in 2017, Massachusetts-based MAHP member plans providing coverage to fully-insured members have launched an aggressive public awareness campaign. They are taking a three-prong approach to remind their members, pharmacists, and providers of the benefits available under the ACCESS law.

The law permits individuals with fully-insured commercial health plan coverage to fill a 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives. To increase awareness and communicate the availability of this coverage, MAHP member plans have requested that their pharmacy benefit managers immediately communicate to their contracted pharmacies how the coverage of this benefit is to be provided. They are also including information in their provider newsletters to remind providers of the availability of the coverage and have updated their websites and member portals to alert fully insured members that they are entitled to fill a 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives.

"We passed the ACCESS Law in 2017 to ensure that women could obtain a twelve month supply of copay free contraception. This education initiative led by the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans is an important step to alert women of the benefits to which they are entitled," said Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester).

"MAHP was a critical partner in securing passage of the contraceptive ACCESS law and I am very grateful that MAHP is taking the initiative to address the issues associated with the implementation of the 2017 ACCESS law. We look forward to continuing to partner with MAHP to ensure full implementation of the law," said Rebecca Hart Holder, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. "A 12-month supply of birth control is more important than ever. Bay Staters should not have to risk unnecessary exposure to COVID-19 to remain in control of their bodies and reproductive lives. It's critical that leaders in Massachusetts continue to push for full implementation of the law."

"MAHP health plans recognize the importance of access to contraceptive coverage and MAHP worked with legislative leaders on the passage of this critical legislation. We are committed to ensuring that members of our health plans receive the appropriate contraceptive coverage and the provider community fully understand the provisions of the law," said Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of MAHP.

### **About MAHP**

*The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans represents 16 health plans and 2 behavioral health plans covering nearly 3 million Massachusetts residents. It is dedicated to improving health for all in Massachusetts by promoting affordable, safe and coordinated health care.*

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