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FAHP Highlights Successes of 2017 Legislative Session

Tallahassee, Fla. – As the Florida Legislature adjourned Sine Die, the Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) today marked the end of a successful 2017 Legislative Session for Florida’s health plans.

“Health care issues and issues related to our industry were key elements of legislative deliberations during the 2017 Legislative Session; and, as we mark the end of a successful legislative session for Florida’s health plans, we thank Florida lawmakers for continuing to put the care of Floridians first and for recognizing the important role Florida’s health plans play in that endeavor,” said Audrey Brown, president and CEO of FAHP. “Importantly, this session, \$185 million in funding was provided by the Florida Legislature for the underpayments that were made during 2014-15 to the Medicaid managed care plans to make them whole; in addition, premium tax credits for Florida-based employees of insurers remains in place.”

“Additionally, while there were threats on a multitude of fronts, from changing Medicaid managed care to inhibiting health plans’ ability to carry out their core operations, these attempts were, fortunately, fended off and Florida’s health plans can continue to provide access to affordable, quality health care to Floridians, as they operate free from new, obstructive regulation.”

Bills successfully defeated, include:

- House Bill 95/Senate Bill 182, which would have limited changes to preferred drug lists during a policy year.
- House Bill 877/Senate Bill 530, which would have changed the current, effective methods of prior authorization and step therapies and significantly hindered the ability of Florida’s health plans to manage medical and pharmacy services.
- Senate Bill 670, which would have placed undue burden on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), damaging their ability to assist in controlling prescription drug prices.
- House Bill 675/Senate Bill 262, which would have overturned laws related to vicarious liability of health insurers and network doctors.

“Moreover, FAHP remained focused during the 2017 Legislation Session on keeping the SMMC program wholly intact and ensuring there were no changes made that would have fragmented the program,” continued Brown. “To that end, Senate Bill 682, which would have carved out nursing homes and hospice from the SMMC long-term care program, was defeated, ensuring

Florida’s health plans can continue to deliver a coordinated system of care – which has proven to be a better, more holistic approach to health care delivery.”

“As we mark the end of session, we, once again, thank the Florida Legislature for ensuring good public policy on health care remains a top priority in the Sunshine State,” concluded Brown.

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The Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) is the state’s trade association representing Florida’s health plans. FAHP’s mission is to better the health of Florida’s citizens by developing meaningful relationships between health plans, providers, government partners and employer groups, as well as focusing on educating policy makers and the public about the benefits health plans provide. For more information on FAHP, please visit FAHP.net.