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FAHP Highlights Priorities Ahead of 2018 Florida Legislative Session

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) today highlighted its priorities for the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, including protecting consumers from price gouging when they are transported by air ambulance; safeguarding patient safety by opposing legislation that would inhibit processes health plans utilize for medical and prescription drug services; and ensuring that the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program (SMMC) continues to provide comprehensive services for better health outcomes for Floridians.

“During the 2018 Legislative Session, FAHP will continue its mission of improving the health of Floridians by supporting public policies that lead to the highest standard of care, while ensuring care is both affordable and accessible to consumers,” said Audrey Brown, president & CEO of FAHP.

“FAHP has been a champion of prohibiting the practice of balance billing, which has ensured Floridians in emergency situations aren’t subject to unreasonably high bills that can bankrupt Florida families,” said Brown. “Similarly, this session, we will be on the frontlines advocating to protect consumers from price gouging when they are transported by air ambulance. It is unacceptable that when someone’s life is in danger and they must be transported by air, that they will face crippling bills when they recover. We look forward to leading the discussion on how to end this practice during the upcoming session.”

“Additionally, FAHP will look to safeguard patient safety by opposing public policies that would seek to change the current, effective method of utilizing prior authorization, and step therapy,” said Brown. “These processes are in place to ensure the highest standard of safety and effectiveness in a number of ways, including identifying overprescribing of opioids; implementing age and diagnosis edits consistent with the Food and Drug Administration prescribing guidelines; and preventing drug abuse and fraud.”

“Finally, we will continue to advocate for Florida’s most vulnerable population in Medicaid to ensure the continued success of the SMMC program,” said Brown. “The program is achieving the goals set by the Governor and Legislature by making significant strides in improving access to high quality care while creating cost savings to the state, and we would discourage any consideration of further carve outs to the program. Coordinated, comprehensive care is the hallmark of SMMC program, and we do not want to turn back the clock on the progress made and

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return the state to a fragmented system of care that failed to provide reliable, critical services to Floridians in the past.”

“With these priorities on FAHP’s legislative agenda, we look forward to a successful 2018 Legislative Session and working with our partners and lawmakers to provide Floridians with access to affordable, quality health care,” 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 policymakers and the public about the benefits health plans provide. For more information on FAHP, please visit FAHP.net.