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FAHP Recaps Successful 2018 Florida Legislative Session

Recognizes Legislature for Productive Dialogue on Health Care Legislation

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) today recognized the Florida Legislature for continuing a productive dialogue on health care legislation aimed at providing access to high-quality health care services for Floridians during the 2018 Legislative Session.

During the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, FAHP worked with stakeholders and policymakers on behalf of the state’s most vulnerable population to ensure the continued success and long-term viability of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program (SMMC); safeguarded patient safety by opposing legislation that would inhibit processes health plans utilize for medical and prescription drug services; opposed legislation that would undermine consumer confidence by allowing any willing provider to treat patients without regard to quality and credentialing; and, ensured health plans are able to continue to operate in Florida without additional or unnecessary regulation.

“This session, FAHP focused on supporting public policies that lead to the highest standard of care for Florida families, as well as opposing policies that would ultimately increase the cost of health care to businesses, individuals and taxpayers of Florida,” said Audrey Brown, president & CEO of FAHP. “We also focused our efforts on preserving the SMMC program, so Florida Medicaid Managed Care Plans can continue their focus on better health outcomes for their members – without disruption. The plans are achieving the goals set by the governor and legislature through coordinated, comprehensive care and are making significant, positive impacts in the lives of this vulnerable population, while creating cost savings to the state.”

“FAHP also engaged with lawmakers and interested parties on legislation that would change the current, effective method of utilizing prior authorization and step therapy,” said Brown. “Ultimately, this legislation did not advance; thereby, preserving the ability for plans 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.”

“Similarly, FAHP engaged on a policy that would have expanded and codified Affordable Care Act regulations into the Florida insurance code,” continued Brown. “FAHP successfully prevented these attempts, which would have had the effect of allowing free health insurance for individuals who never paid their premium.”

“Overall, the 2018 Legislative Session was successful for FAHP, Florida’s health plans and the consumers we serve; we are proud of what we were able to accomplish to ensure the ability to provide access to affordable, high quality health care to Floridians,” 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.