

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:**

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### **Safety Net Health Plans Support**

#### **Stability of Coverage and Services for Medicaid Eligible Individuals**

*Urge Congress and States to Maximize Existing Tools to Improve Care, Costs*

The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) released the following statement in response to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's March 1, 2011 hearing, "The Consequences of Obamacare: Impact on Medicaid and State Health Care Reform":

"The Association for Community Affiliated Plans supports Congress' ongoing work to strengthen the nation's health care system and monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA has set the nation on a path to provide access to quality, affordable health care for those who need help the most and addresses some of the long-standing inequities in health care for low-income individuals.

Because ACAP and safety net health plans are partners with federal and state governments in the provision of benefits to Medicaid officials, we fully understand the challenging fiscal environment in which we all now operate. However, in the midst of these fiscal pressures, we believe it is important to ensure that the Medicaid program serves those in need and that states are taking full advantage of the policy options available to them. In particular, as Congress considers potential reforms to Medicaid, we believe that any such effort should seek to preserve the federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage and facilitate stability and coordination in the care that is provided.

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As federal and state officials consider ways to cut costs in Medicaid and reduce the rate of growth in the health care system in general, ACAP urges policymakers to maximize the tools already available to them, including those newly provided by the ACA. For example, states should seek to expand their managed care programs to the fullest extent possible both to new geographic regions and to new populations. States should examine their prescription drug programs to ensure they leverage the ACA's provisions to extend the prescription drug rebate to enrollees in Medicaid managed care programs. Safety net health plans also are eager to work with states to build upon existing medical home initiatives to implement the ACA's new health home model for individuals with complex needs and chronic conditions.

ACAP supports bipartisan action to strengthen Medicaid while preserving coverage for the poorest and most vulnerable Americans, and we hope that the Congress will provide a forum for a thoughtful and robust discussion of the program's challenges.

ACAP represents 54 not-for-profit health plans in 26 states serving over seven million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public health programs.

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For more information about ACAP and safety net health plans, visit:  
[www.communityplans.net](http://www.communityplans.net)