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**STATEMENT OF ACAP CEO MARGARET A. MURRAY ON THE SUPREME COURT
DECISION ON *FLORIDA v. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES***

WASHINGTON – Margaret A. Murray, Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), issued the following statement today regarding the recent Supreme Court decision on *Florida v. Department of Health and Human Services*, which centered on the Affordable Care Act’s expansion of the Medicaid program:

“The Court’s decision on the Medicaid expansion within the health reform law is still wonderful news for low-income families. Expanding access to Medicaid is a simple matter of equity and basic fairness to the millions of Americans who will be newly insured—some for the first time—when the expansion goes into effect in 2014. That’s why ACAP has supported the health reform law from the very beginning, and Safety Net Health Plans have been preparing to expand their capacity to accommodate new populations that will be eligible in 2014.

“But the Court’s ruling that allows states to opt out of the expansion is unfortunate. The law had promised to bring coverage to 16 million low-income people who live on a tightrope every day, one accident or illness away from financial ruin, and with few options for care beyond an emergency room. It is now incumbent upon all states to step up, do the right thing and approve the expansion of coverage to working families with low incomes.

“ACAP-member plans applaud the Court’s decision to uphold the individual mandate and the Affordable Care Act as a whole, and are ready to work with state and Federal leaders to find ways to preserve and enhance access to the kind of health care that all of us deserve.”

About ACAP

ACAP represents 59 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 26 states, which collectively serve nearly ten million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

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