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MPCA Marks the Six-Month Anniversary of Health Care Reform

Today marks the six-month anniversary of the Affordable Care Act and the implementation of some major provisions of the law. Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) is joining with Community Health Centers and the National Association of Community Health Centers to celebrate these provisions which will extend secure coverage and increase access to health care for many underserved and uninsured individuals in Michigan and across the country.

Starting this week, young adults can stay on their parents' plan until they are 26; insurance companies can no longer rescind coverage after the fact; children under 19 can no longer be rejected from health care plans due to pre-existing conditions; new plans cannot exclude anyone from coverage for a pre-existing condition; insurers can no longer limit the amount of coverage someone can receive over their lifetime; new health insurance plans must provide preventive services such as mammograms and immunizations. These are just a few of the provisions that go into effect today.

Another key provision of the Affordable Care Act expands the nationwide network of Community Health Centers. Community Health Centers have been providing comprehensive, second-to-none care in communities across the country for 45 years. Today there are 1,250 Community Health Centers from coast-to-coast, with 31 organizations operating over 160 sites in Michigan – and those numbers are growing. Their doors are open to everyone, regardless of insurance status or income, and they boast a broad menu of services from medical care to behavioral health care, from dental care to pharmacy services, and much more.

“Under the Affordable Care Act, not only will people have better coverage, they will have better access to care with the expansion of Community Health Centers. Community Health Centers are on the front lines every day, witnessing the value of community members having a health care home,” said Kim Sibilsky, Executive Director, MPCA. “When people have a health care team working for them, whenever and wherever they need it, they use it and stay healthy. Health Center patients not only get the care they need, but they are treated as individuals, with dignity and respect. This is what health care should be.”

About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mPCA.net or call 517.381.8000.

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