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“The First 100 Days” of Medicare Part D Conference *April 18-20, 2006 at Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel*

Washington, DC – As Medicare Part D is under implementation, so are the far-reaching policy and administrative issues that have an impact on patients, health care plans and state governments. As a result of this changing landscape, Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) is hosting a three-day special conference, “Medicare Part D: The First 100 Days,” to address and discuss these critical issues.

Thomas Johnson, Executive Director of MHPA, advocates for the interests of health plans participating in Medicaid managed care. “This conference will serve as a forum for industry professionals to focus on the transition to the first federal entitlement program in 40 years. Special focus will be placed on operational and policy issues,” Johnson said.

As Chairman of the Medicare Rx Education Network, Former U.S. Senator John Breaux (D-LA) highlights the credibility and validation of the program. According to a survey commissioned by the Medicare Rx Education Network, eighty percent of seniors who have voluntarily signed up for the Medicare prescription drug program are satisfied with their coverage. “The survey shows that seniors who have enrolled are finding the benefit worth the time and effort that it takes to check out the plans and sign up. The survey assessed seniors’ reactions to the benefit date so that the Medicare Education Network can fine tune its education efforts over the next six weeks,” Breaux said.

A highlight of the conference will be the first panel discussion, “Medicare Part D: The First 100 Days.” The featured panelists include Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of America’s Health Insurance Plans, Mark Merritt, President and CEO Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, and Former Senator Breaux.

The “Medicare Part D: The First 100 Days,” conference will be held April 18 – April 20, 2006 at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel and will feature many speakers including Johnson and Breaux.

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Medicaid Health Plans of America is an organization representing the Medicaid managed care industry. MHPA's primary focus is providing sound research, analysis, and forums that support the development of effective policy solutions to best provide for Medicaid patients as well as low-income-earning individuals and families seeking quality healthcare from Medicaid managed care organizations.