

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 1, 2018

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## **Elizabeth Leahy Promoted to Director of Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement**

**BOSTON** - The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) announced today that Elizabeth Leahy has been promoted to the newly-created position of Director of Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement.

Leahy joined MAHP in May 2014 as a Research and Policy Analyst. Since that time, she has been instrumental in fostering MAHP's collaboration efforts with stakeholders across the health care sector. She serves as MAHP's representative on the Massachusetts Collaborative, a multi-stakeholder organization focused on administrative simplification in the health care industry, and leads the Collaborative's Strategy and Operations group where she is heavily involved in ways to improve and streamline administrative processes, including the development of online provider directories for consumers.

Leahy has also worked to build consensus with advocacy organizations to develop policy that meets the needs of citizens of the Commonwealth while being mindful of health care costs. This legislative session, she worked with the Coalition for Choice to reach compromise on the ACCESS bill signed into law by Governor Baker in November 2017. This law ensures that women in Massachusetts have access to comprehensive contraceptive coverage regardless of any federal legislative or regulatory changes that may occur. She was also instrumental in working with the PATCH (Protecting Access to Confidential Health Care) Alliance to ensure health plan members' confidential health care information is protected. That legislation became law in April.

"Liz has been instrumental in advancing the critical goals of MAHP and its member health plans – from helping control costs for consumers and employers to working towards administrative simplification throughout the healthcare marketplace," said MAHP President and CEO Lora Pellegrini. "Liz's ability to work with diverse interest groups is unmatched and her intelligence, passion and commitment have been essential to MAHP's overall success."

In her new role, Leahy will also oversee MAHP's social media outreach, ensuring that MAHP's messaging is aligned with the organization's overall priorities.

Prior to joining MAHP, Leahy was a civil litigation attorney in private practice in the Merrimack Valley. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Women and Gender Studies Department and the Pre-Law Minor at Merrimack College, where she teaches courses in gender studies, law, and public policy. She has been a visiting lecturer at Tufts University's EX-College and has worked with a variety of public interest groups including Community Catalyst and the

Community Dispute Settlement Center. Leahy is a Professional designee with the Academy of Health Care Management (PAHM).

In 2017, Leahy was appointed by Governor Baker to serve on the Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD).

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