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Media Statement: Michigan Family Physicians Applaud Federal Government's Approval of State's Healthy Michigan Waiver

This statement is attributed to Michigan Academy of Family Physicians President Kim K. Yu, MD, FAAFP, in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' approval of the state's second Healthy Michigan waiver announced on December 17, 2015.

On behalf of the 4,000-plus Michigan Family Physicians, Family Medicine residents, and medical students that the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians represent, our family of Family Medicine applauds the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' approval of the state's second and final *Healthy Michigan* waiver.

The federal government's approval was critical to the program's existence and ensuring continued Medicaid coverage for nearly 600,000 low-income, hardworking Michiganders, many of whom have never had insurance before.

As specialists in primary care for individuals across the lifespan, Family Physicians witness every day how important it is to have health insurance. Far too often, patients come to us for care long after they should have, many times because they didn't have insurance and couldn't afford care, or because they are referred to us after visiting the emergency room, which is costly and does not build the patient-doctor relationship that facilitates better health outcomes through preventive care.

It is our vision that all Michigan residents have access to quality, affordable healthcare within a Family Physician-led medical home, and CMS' approval of the state's *Healthy Michigan* waiver is one more step toward achieving that vision.

About MAFP:

The Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) supports Family Physicians in Michigan through leadership, collaboration, and innovation to achieve the best patient outcomes. For more information, call 517.347.0098 or visit mafpc.com.