

**Joint Statement Regarding Medicaid Manage Care Contract, September 2, 2021**

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As health care providers committed to serving the District of Columbia’s Medicaid recipients and some of the City’s most vulnerable populations who face significant health disparities, we are extremely concerned about the major disruption in the health care delivery system and access to hospital and special care that might occur if Mayor Bowser’s emergency declaration is not supported.

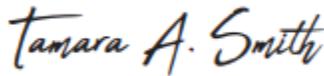
Several associations representing hospitals, health care providers, primary care, physicians, behavioral health providers and nursing homes in the District have joined together to express our support Mayor Bowser’s state of emergency declaration that ensures more than 200,000 patients and residents will continue, without disruption to receive the care they have come to expect and deserve from their health care providers.

We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and it’s more important than ever to make certain there is no disruption for Medicaid beneficiaries and District residents who need access to all the essential primary, specialty and hospital care services and related support services. As the City’s largest group of health care providers, we recognize firsthand the lingering impact and negative consequences that limited access and delayed care can have on a patient’s health outcome. We can ill afford to create any barriers that will interfere with current or future health care visits, screenings, procedures, hospitalizations, or other necessary services. All patients, regardless of their health care plans, must have access to health care services when and where they need them. We must remain committed to addressing health care inequity and reduce barriers to care, not increase them.

We strongly encourage the Bowser Administration and DC City Council to work together to ensure a smooth and timely solution that provides predictability, sustainability, and most importantly, protects access to care for our most vulnerable citizens. The Mayor’s declaration is a good first step in maintaining high levels of health care access to all participating providers in the DC Medicaid Managed Care program. We encourage the Council to support it.



Jacqueline D. Bowens  
President & CEO  
District of Columbia Hospital Association



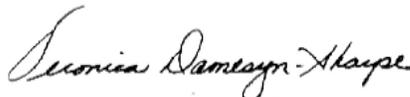
Tamara Smith  
President & CEO  
District of Columbia  
Primary Care Association



Mark LeVota  
Executive Director  
District of Columbia Behavioral  
Health Association



Robert Hay, Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia



Veronica Sharpe  
Executive Director  
District of Columbia Health Care Association

