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**State of Ohio Selects Medical Mutual of Ohio to Operate  
Temporary High Risk Pool Program**

*Insurer's proposal would cover an estimated 5,000 uninsured Ohioans*

**COLUMBUS** —Ohio Department of Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson, today, announced that the State of Ohio plans to designate Medical Mutual of Ohio as the non-profit entity that will operate the temporary high risk pool program for Ohioans, as created through the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, in order to provide uninsured people with pre-existing conditions the opportunity to purchase more affordable health insurance.

“We are pleased to have selected an Ohio company to operate the temporary high risk pool program in Ohio,” said Hudson. “With approximately \$152 million coming to Ohio through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to operate this program, this is an opportunity for an Ohio based non-profit company to be involved in providing health insurance benefits to the many Ohioans who need coverage because of pre-existing health conditions.”

The Department of Insurance recently has submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicating that Medical Mutual will operate the Ohio temporary high risk pool. The agency will collaborate with Medical Mutual and HHS to detail the logistics of the program and to obtain final approval from HHS as to Ohio’s plan for implementing the program.

“We selected Medical Mutual to operate the temporary high risk pool program in Ohio after a competitive process because they can begin to cover Ohioans by August and will do so at a low cost. We look forward to working with them throughout this process to ensure eligible uninsured Ohioans can obtain quality coverage through this new program,” said Hudson.

The Temporary High Risk Pool is a federally subsidized health plan, authorized under the Affordable Care Act, which makes coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions more affordable for people who cannot purchase health insurance in the private market because of their health status. In their proposal, Medical Mutual estimated that with the available funding they could cover more than 5,000 Ohioans through the duration of the program, with individuals paying a standard rate premium for their coverage. No state funds will be used to provide this coverage.

"Becoming involved in the high risk pool is consistent with who we are as a mutual insurance company, as well as an Ohio company, that has been serving the healthcare needs of Ohioans for 76 years," said Medical Mutual President & CEO Rick Chiricosta.

Ohioans with questions concerning the new health care reform laws are encouraged to contact the Department of Insurance by calling **1-800-686-1526**. Free information can also be obtained at [www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov](http://www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov).

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