

Two largest health trade insurance groups to merge

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Directors of the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) and the American Association of Health Plans (AAHP) voted late last week to merge the two leading trade groups.

Members of HIAA and AAHP will vote next month on the agreement. The directors of HIAA and AAHP have asked AAHP President Karen M. Ignagni to lead the new association.

“Together, the members of AAHP and HIAA have the opportunity to speak convincingly and with one voice about the role of our private sector community in addressing today’s pressing challenges,” said HIAA’s Chairman of the Board Ben Cutler, chairman of Fortis Health.

“In unison, we can make a greater contribution to the nation’s efforts to improve quality, moderate costs, promote access, and offer choice in health care,” said AAHP Chairman of the Board William T. McCallum, president of Great-West Life.

The trade groups will continue to maintain an office in Washington, D.C. The merged organization will use the name AAHP/HIAA until such time as a new name is approved. □