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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   November 28, 2018

OPTIMA HEALTH ANNOUNCES
NEARLY 200 NEW JOBS AS
DIRECT RESULT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

NORFOLK, Va. (December 4, 2018)—Virginia-based Optima Health announced today that it will hire approximately 200 new employees (197, to be precise) as a direct result of Medicaid expansion. Open enrollment for Medicaid expansion began on November 1, 2018. These new jobs at Optima Health will help support many of the 400,000 eligible Virginians who are expected to enroll in Medicaid statewide in the next few months.

In June 2018, Governor Ralph Northam signed legislation to expand Medicaid, making Virginia the 33rd state to implement Medicaid expansion.

Governor Northam provided context on how Optima Health's job creation fits into a statewide perspective. He stated, "I'm pleased Optima Health will expand and create nearly 200 jobs as a result of our bipartisan work to expand Medicaid to nearly 400,000 working Virginians this year. This is an outstanding example of how implementation cannot only enhance the health of our communities, but also act as an economic driver to create local jobs."

Medicaid covers one in five Americans, including veterans, children, and people with disabilities. It is a safety net that includes mental health services and, now, it promotes job growth.

Dennis Matheis, president of Optima Health, described the job growth at Optima Health. He noted, "These new hires at Optima Health are not staff transitioned from other roles, but genuine new hires, directly attributable to Medicaid expansion. We're proud to be hiring on this scale from the local Virginia community to serve Medicaid patients. It is truly an example of Virginians caring for Virginians."

Additionally, finding an office setting for the new employees helps support redevelopment efforts in the Hampton Roads region. Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander explained how Optima Health fits into his Military Circle Mall redevelopment efforts, stating, "Optima Health is helping us bring vibrancy to this emerging area with placing both its Medicaid and government program staff at the Optima Health's customer service center inside the former J.C. Penny at the Military Circle Mall."

Medicaid is healthy for Virginia's economy as well as enrollees' physical and mental health. And, it's not too late to sign up. Virginians who would like to know if they are one of the 400,000 individuals now eligible for Medicaid may learn more by calling 844-563-4207 or 757-552-7258, or by visiting www.coverva.org.

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About Optima Health
Optima Health, based in Virginia, provides health insurance coverage to more than 510,000 members. With more than 30 years of experience, Optima Health offers a suite of commercial products including consumer-directed, employee-owned and employer-sponsored plans, individual health plans, employee assistance programs and plans serving Medicare and Medicaid enrollees. Its provider network features 26,000 providers including specialists, primary care physicians and hospitals across Virginia. Optima Health also offers programs to support members with chronic illnesses, customized wellness programs and integrated clinical and behavioral health services, as well as pharmacy management—all to help members improve their health every day. The company's goals are to provide better health, be easy to use and offer services that are a great value. To learn more about Optima Health, visit www.optimahealth.com.