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## MEMORANDUM

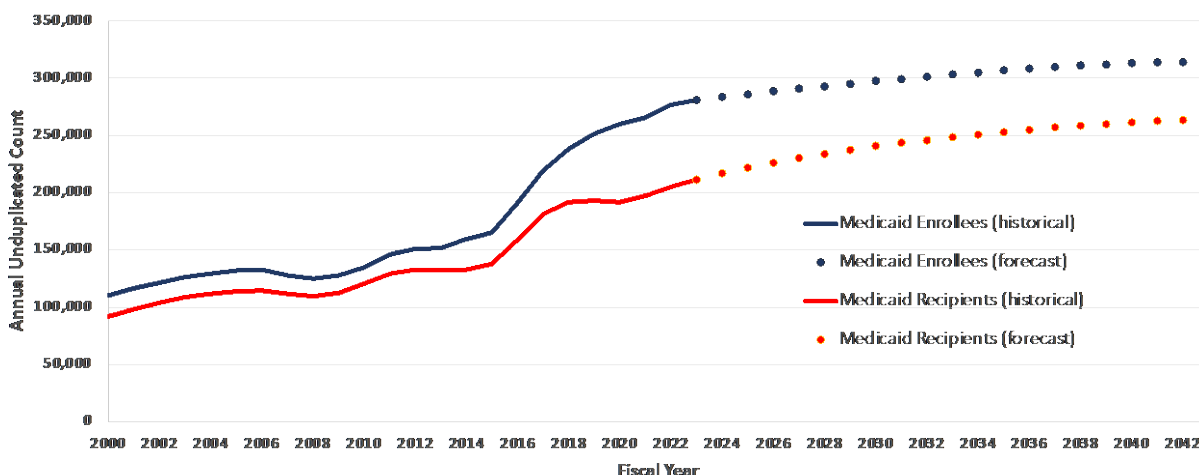
**Date:** February 28, 2023

**To:** Senator David Wilson

**Re:** Gap between Medicaid enrollees and recipients

Figure 1 shows the historical and projected future relationship between Medicaid enrollment and recipients – both measured as annual unduplicated count – for FY2000 through FY2043. The gap between enrollment and recipients began to widen in FY2014 due to changes to provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which stipulates that eligibility redetermination cannot be made more than once per year for most Medicaid eligibilities. The continuous enrollment requirement mandated by the DHS as part of the COVID-19 pandemic relief further widening the gap between the numbers of Medicaid enrollees and recipients. With the unwinding of the continuous enrollment requirement beginning April 1, 2023, the gap between number of enrollees and recipients will begin to narrow, but will likely do so slowly and will not narrow to the extent it did prior to the ACA.

**Figure 1: Historical & Projected Medicaid Enrollment and Recipient Count\***



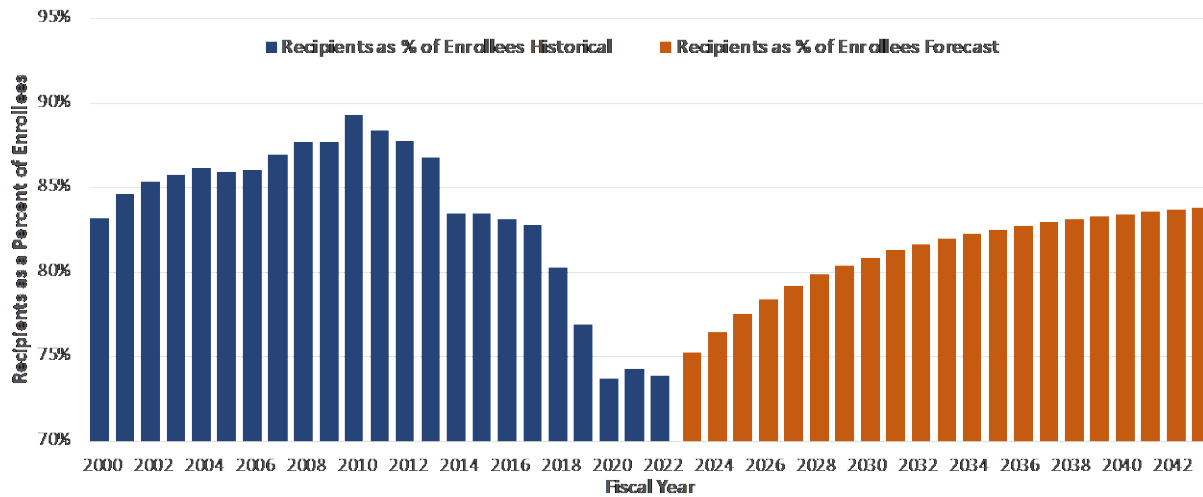
Source: Analysis by Evergreen Economics of data provided by the Medicaid Budget Group for the Long-Term Medicaid Forecast, FY2023 – FY2043.

\*Enrollment and recipient counts are annual unduplicated

Figure 2 shows Medicaid recipient as a percent of Medicaid enrollees. In FY2014, due to ACA requirements, recipients as a percent of enrollees dropped and remained stable through FY2017, but then dropped again in each subsequent year through FY2020 where it has remained at about 74% (i.e., 74% of Medicaid enrollees are recipients). Based on analysis conducted as part of the *Long-Term Medicaid Forecast, FY2023 – FY2043*, which was completed prior to passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (which was signed into law on

December 29, 2022 and set a phase-out of the continuous enrollment provision beginning April 1, 2023), Evergreen Economics projected that Medicaid recipients as a percent of Medicaid enrollees would begin to revert back to a more “natural” level of between 83% and 84%. It is possible— perhaps even likely—that this relationship will revert more quickly than is shown in Figure 2 based on the speed in which redeterminations can be completed.

**Figure 2: Medicaid Recipients as a Percent of Medicaid Enrollees**



Source: Analysis by Evergreen Economics of data provided by the Medicaid Budget Group for the Long-Term Medicaid Forecast, FY2023 – FY2043.

\*Enrollment and recipient counts are annual unduplicated