



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

2704 Commerce Drive, Suite A • Harrisburg, PA 17110 • p 717.564.5365 • f 717.564.4235
CONTACT: Bryan D. Peach, Manager of Media and Public Relations
direct 717.635.7580 • email bpeach@pafp.com • www.pafp.com

PAFP Lauds Passage of Legislation to Advance Patient-Centered Care Model

(HARRISBURG, PA.) The [Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians](http://www.pafp.com) (PAFP) applauds legislation aimed at reforming Pennsylvania's Medicaid program to adopt patient-centered medical home models of care sponsored by Chairman of the House Health Committee, Rep. Matt Baker (R-Tioga). **House Bill 1655**, which establishes the "Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Advisory Council" to provide policy recommendations to the state Dept. of Public Welfare, is now headed to Gov. Tom Corbett for his signature.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians was instrumental in the development of and advocacy for House Bill 1655. The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Advisory Council, comprising representatives of health provider groups including family physicians, OB/GYNs, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, hospitals and others such as appointed state officials, will draw upon the experiences of other public and private payers to advance a physician-led PCMH model – a care delivery model centered around an ongoing partnership between a patient and physician who coordinates personalized care with a team. Through the council's actions, Pennsylvania will work toward joining the 26 other state Medicaid programs that have launched PCMH initiatives on a state or regional basis.

"Advancement of the patient-centered medical home has been a part of the PAFP's mission for years, and we are delighted to see this legislation pass," said Douglas Spotts, MD, President of the PAFP. "We are thankful to Chairman Baker; to Sen. Judy Schwank, who introduced companion legislation in the Senate; and to all senators and representatives who voted in favor of the legislation. This is a big step toward advancing team-based care."

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure a patient-centered medical home for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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