



# 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](mailto:bpeach@pafp.com) • [www.pafp.com](http://www.pafp.com)

## **PAFP Applauds Introduction of Bills to Advance Patient-Centered Care Model**

*(HARRISBURG, PA.)* In a move aimed at reforming Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program to adopt Patient-Centered Medical Home models of care, state Sen. Judy Schwank (D-Berks) and state Rep. Matt Baker (R-Tioga) have filed **Senate Bill 1083** and **House Bill 1655**, respectively. Developed with the [Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians](#) (PAFP), the bills would establish the “Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Advisory Council” to provide policy recommendations to the state Dept. of Public Welfare.

The council, comprising representatives of health provider groups including family physicians, OB/GYNs, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, hospitals and others such as appointed state officials, would 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 would work toward joining the 26 other state Medicaid programs that have launched PCMH initiatives on a state or regional basis.

Earlier in 2013, Gov. Tom Corbett’s administration was awarded a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) State Innovation Models planning grant to explore transforming Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program. While the plan has not been finalized, the PCMH care model has been identified as a main component to be included in Pennsylvania’s future application to CMS for implementation funding.

PCMH models have also gained momentum with private insurers in Pennsylvania, including [Highmark](#), who announced on Jan. 23, 2013 [it will be expanding its initiative](#) to include more than 1,000 primary care doctors. Highmark’s pilot data reflected a 2 percent reduction in cost, as well as fewer inpatient admissions and readmissions to hospitals.

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.

###