

PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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PAFP applauds introduction of Primary Care Investment legislation

(HARRISBURG, Pa. June 26, 2023) The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), today, applauded state Senator Judy Schwank (D-Berks) for sponsoring legislation intended to shine a light on commercial and Medicaid expenditures for primary care.

Senate Bill 809 would establish a Primary Care Investment Task Force to examine if financial expenditures for primary care services provided by physicians are meeting the needs of Pennsylvanians.

"Pennsylvania has an extraordinarily complex health care infrastructure compared with most other states, which makes this examination of primary care spending critical," PAFP President Jeanne Spencer, MD, said. "Family Physicians understand that robust investment in primary care yields healthier outcomes and longer lives for patients."

The legislation is the first of its kind to be proposed in the Commonwealth and would compel the Department of Human Services to analyze and compare Medicaid and commercial insurer expenditures, in a macro economic sense, for services provided by allopathic and osteopathic physicians of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

"Senator Schwank and her colleagues' attention to this matter is highly commendable," said Dr. Spencer. "The PAFP will work with our colleagues in pediatrics and internal medicine to advocate for passage of Senate Bill 809."

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The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation support its members through advocacy and education to ensure physician-coordinated, personalized, and comprehensive quality health care 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.