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Family Doctors Ready to Work with Medicaid Changes

(HARRISBURG, PA.) Feb. 10, 2015 Pennsylvania's family physicians are ready to work with Medicaid changes under Gov. Tom Wolf's administration. Under Wolf's newly announced plan to expand Medical Assistance eligibility, former Gov. Tom Corbett's Healthy PA program will be phased out throughout 2015 – but current patient coverage will not be immediately impacted.

In an ever-changing health care system, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) is eager to work toward improvements that benefit patients in a simple, satisfactory, and economically feasible way. The PAFP will keep a close eye on these changes to Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, and welcomes bipartisan reforms like Act 198 of 2014 which created the Patient-Centered Medical Home Advisory Council to explore implementing a statewide physician-led, patient-centered medical home model. Such reforms create a system wherein comprehensive, cost-effective, quality health care can flourish.

The PAFP recognizes the vital importance of access to care – especially primary care, which is critical in keeping health costs low and improving patient outcomes. The PAFP's membership [has demonstrated a willingness to accept new patients](#) – as recently as 2013 (after the passage of the Affordable Care Act), 90 percent of practices accepted new patients, with more than 60 percent of practices accommodating new patients on Medical Assistance. This commitment to patient access will continue under Gov. Wolf's Medicaid plan.

The PAFP will closely monitor the transition and looks forward to working with the governor, the legislature, and other primary care organizations to tackle the complex issues of health reform.

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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