



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

September 27, 2018

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Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, representing over 6,000 family physicians in the Commonwealth, I wanted to express our support for Senate Bill 623, known as POLST.

The PAFP strongly feels that care at the end of life should be respectful of the dignity of both patient and caregivers, be respectful of the patient's wishes, use the most appropriate measures that are consistent with patient and surrogate choices, and respect the right to refuse treatment. While a number of mechanisms of advance care planning have been utilized historically, POLST is an effective, patient-centered mechanism to facilitate these principles.

It is important to note that patients as well as health care facilities have implemented use of POLST throughout the Commonwealth and this legislation will facilitate statutory enforcement of documented patient wishes. This will include both avoiding unwanted treatments as well as ensuring treatments that are desired during an urgent, emergent, or end of life care circumstance.

And so, we ask for your support of SB623 to respect patient autonomy and patient and family-centered care principles that will serve the citizens of the Commonwealth. Should you have any additional questions or if we could be of assistance in addressing this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact myself or PAFP Deputy EVP Brent Ennis.

Sincerely,

David T. O'Gurek, MD, FAFPP
PAFP President