



# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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## **PAFP applauds new Pa. mental health initiative**

*(HARRISBURG, PA. Jan. 2, 2020)* The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) applauds Gov. Tom Wolf and his administration on the Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters Initiative.

“Mental illness is one of the most pervasive causes of disease and disability worldwide with significant stigma and bias,” said PAFP President Mary Stock Keister, MD. “By seeing our patients in a comprehensive, holistic way, family medicine physicians experience every day how mental health impacts overall health of individuals, families and communities. Family physicians are one of the primary sources for mental health care in the United States and are well positioned to provide mental health services or guide their patients to the best appropriate care.

“As such, the PAFP stands prepared to play a part in this initiative and work to build a trauma-informed culture that breaks down stigma and bias, addresses preventive strategies, and integrates with mental and behavioral health care providers to better meet their patients’ needs.”

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