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PAFP lauds movement on “Health in All Policies”

(HARRISBURG, Pa. Dec. 7, 2021) The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), today, applauded the recent issuance of a cosponsor memo by state Sen. Judy Schwank (a Democrat serving parts of Berks County) seeking broad bipartisan support for legislation that would establish a Health in All Policies Task Force in Pennsylvania.

The PAFP, which represents over 6,000 family physicians, residents, and students, has long viewed “Health in All Policies” as a collaborative and commonsense approach to bridging gaps in health care policy across state agencies.

Amplified by the ongoing pandemic, state government policy management needs more health-oriented, cross-agency considerations that can prove helpful in addressing health disparities across the Commonwealth.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many medical, socio-economic, and public policy challenges that have shined a light on significant health inequalities in Pennsylvania,” Sen. Schwank stated in her memo. “Adopting a Health in All Policies strategy will help to address these existing health disparities beyond the current public health emergency.”

“We thank Sen. Schwank for her leadership on this issue,” PAFP President Tiffany Leonard, MD, said. “We believe ‘Health in All Policies’ will have a positive influence on state policy development and help address social determinants of health, ultimately improving health outcomes for all Pennsylvanians.”

The PAFP will work with other stakeholders to secure bipartisan support for the legislation.

Legislators often issue memos to their colleagues seeking cosponsors for legislation they plan to introduce. Sen. Schwank’s cosponsor memo can be viewed [here](#).

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The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation is a physician-led organization committed to advancing quality health care through advocacy, education, workforce development and commitment to the patients we serve. For over 70 years and with more than 6,000 physician, resident and student members, the Academy and its Foundation’s core values are visionary leadership, integrity, and community.