



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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PAFP responds to PA Supreme Court ruling on venue shopping

(HARRISBURG, PA. Aug. 26, 2022) Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) President, Jason Woloski, MD, FAAFP, today, expressed disappointment in the PA Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the venue rule, which required medical malpractice cases to be filed within the county the alleged incident occurred.

“We are extremely disheartened by the Supreme Court’s ruling,” Dr. Woloski said. “Family physicians are often the first point of contact for patients. We fear this decision will increase medical liability insurance costs for many family physicians, negatively impacting patient access to quality primary health care across the Commonwealth.”

Prior to a 2003 court decision, the nefarious practice of “venue shopping” was often used to funnel medical liability cases to geographic areas with historically high-verdict court systems. The practice greatly impacted physicians and patients, resulting in increased insurance premiums, increased health care costs, and a reduction in patient access to health care.

“With the potential resurgence of venue shopping, we fear a return to the unpredictable medical liability climate of the early 2000s.

“The PAFP will continue to advocate for legislative action that will end, once and for all, the harmful practice of venue shopping.”

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