

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 18, 2020

Statement attributable to:
American Academy of Family Physicians

The American Academy of Family Physicians is encouraged by the recently released Heroes Act, which includes policies that represent a step in the right direction for family physicians on the front lines of this pandemic. Family physicians are a critical component of the nation's pandemic response and the key to a high-performing health care system. To date, they have received an insufficient level of support from pandemic response legislation.

The Heroes Act delivers more support for physicians by providing additional funding for the Provider Relief Fund, but it is imperative that a portion of this additional funding be specifically dedicated to supporting primary care physicians. In addition, the bill acknowledges the strains on state budgets and provides needed resources to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on safety-net programs. The legislation also provides physicians and other health care workers the ability to secure personal protective equipment and other needed supplies.

We are pleased that the legislation supports international medical graduates (IMGs) to ensure a full family medicine workforce that is equipped to answer the call of this public health emergency. We look forward to working with members of both the House and Senate as these discussions take shape and urge Congress to support the important role that primary care plays in responding to this pandemic.

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