



January 13, 2017

Hon. Erik Paulsen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Primary Care Enhancement Act

Dear Rep. Paulsen and Rep. Blumenauer:

On behalf of the 124,900 physician and medical-student members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), I write to thank you for introducing the *Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2015* (HR 365). This legislation removes legal barriers that currently prevent patients with health savings accounts (HSAs) from receiving care from family physicians practicing in a Direct Primary Care (DPC) model. As such, the AAFP appreciates your leadership on this important issue and I am pleased to inform you that the AAFP supports the bill.

Under existing interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code, patients with HSAs are prohibited from engaging in DPC arrangements with a family physician or other primary-care physician. Section 2 of your bill removes this barrier by allowing patients with HSAs to freely contract with physicians for DPC services. Second, the Internal Revenue Code also establishes that a patient with an HSA may not use HSA dollars to pay for insurance premiums. Section 3 of your bill explicitly states that patients may use HSA dollars to pay for monthly DPC payments—clarifying that DPC is not health insurance.

The ranks of family physicians practicing in DPC is growing among AAFP's membership, and attracting more young physicians to the specialty of family medicine. Your leadership on this important issue helps support this trend.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this with the AAFP further please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Adair, Government Relations Representative, at aadair@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Wanda D. Filer, MD, MBA, FAAFP
Board Chair

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