



September 25, 2014

The Honorable John Sarbanes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Sarbanes:

On behalf of the 115,900 physician and student members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), thank you for introducing the *Primary Care Physician Reentry Act* (HR 5498). The AAFP shares your commitment to improving the process of physician reentry to clinical practice following an extended period of clinical inactivity not resulting from discipline or impairment, and we support your legislation.

Family physicians frequently experience personal or professional opportunities that may take them away from the practice of family medicine for a period of time. Those physicians remain important contributors to the family physician workforce. We recognize that efforts must be made to identify the processes physicians must complete to obtain appropriate licensure, credentials and privileges to resume practice. We believe that the process for physician reentry should: (1) be transparent for physicians and the public, (2) integrate into current licensure and maintenance of certification procedures, and (3) focus on helping physicians to deliver effective, efficient and high-quality patient care.

As the only medical society devoted solely to primary care, we are grateful that you refined the definition of "reentering physician" in HR 5498 to primary care physicians.

We appreciate your leadership in addressing America's shortage of primary care physicians. If you or your staff would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Teresa Baker, Senior Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or tbaker@afafp.org.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Cain, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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