



COLORADO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Monday, April 25, 2016

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Office of the Governor
200 E. Colfax Ave. #136
Denver, CO 80203

Governor Hickenlooper,

On behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) and our 2,300 members, I write today to ask for your signature on House Bill 1408 as part of the total budget package you are currently considering. As you know, this bill, in tandem with other state budget legislation, will ensure Colorado sustains increased reimbursement for certain primary care services through Medicaid.

Primary care is the foundation on which our health care system and the Medicaid Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) are built. Given the difficult budget situation our state faced this year, we are particularly grateful for the \$20 million in support we received from a bipartisan group of lawmakers that continued state efforts to reimburse primary care physicians at a rate more closely aligned with Medicare. We believe that this investment in primary care is one of the most important places Colorado can put its health care dollars because it provides the basis for a healthier state by ensuring the provision of preventive services. Additionally, primary care physicians generate over \$1.5 million annually in economic activity in their communities, creating as many as 23 jobs per physician. These contributions are particularly significant in rural communities where these kinds of economic drivers can be more difficult to find.

While we are appreciative of this funding, we are also acutely aware that it is one-time funding and not a permanent solution. Primary care is the bedrock of the health care system today and the basis of any meaningful health care reform going forward. The success of state initiatives to enhance healthcare delivery – from the ACC, to the State Innovation Model, to the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative – depends on family physicians to get the job done. We are up to the task, but we need the resources required to give our patients the healthcare they deserve.

We urge you to continue to work with us to make sure that investment is a sustained and even greater priority in Colorado's budget in future years. We look forward to working with your Office of State Planning and Budgeting as well as the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing over the summer and fall to develop an on-going funding solution that

continues Colorado's investment in primary care. We have appreciated their efforts on this issue in the past and know that we can find common ground again on this issue going forward.

Thank you for your leadership on health care in Colorado. And thank you for your support of House Bill 1408.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Madrid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn Madrid, MD, FAAFP
President and Chair of the Board
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians

CC:

Henry Sobanet
Eliza Shultz
Kurt Morrison
Kyle Brown
Sue Birch
Gretchen Hammer
Zach Lynkiewicz
Tom Massey