



TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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REP. JOSE MENENDEZ RECEIVES INNOVATION IN HEALTH CARE POLICY AWARD

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — State Rep. José Menéndez of San Antonio, Texas was awarded the Innovation in Health Care Policy Award by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians at the organization’s 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington on July 25. This new award honors outstanding leaders in health care policy.

Rep. Menéndez, who is viewed by many as an up-and-coming political force in the Texas House of Representatives, has represented District 124, part of Bexar County, for five terms.

During the 81st Texas Legislature, Rep. Menéndez authored groundbreaking legislation to require health plans to provide physicians information at the point of care on what their patients’ insurance covers, the amount of their co-pay and deductible, and what their out-of-pocket costs will be for care provided.

“I wanted health insurers to be able to provide people easy ways to realize what it was they were buying or not buying before they bought in to a system so they would know whether they would have the benefits necessary to cover the cost of their care,” Menéndez told the audience at the awards ceremony.

He credited the bill’s success to the ability for all stakeholders—legislative leaders, physician groups and HMOs—to sit down at the table together and craft strong legislation that would benefit patients and help doctors get the information they need at the point of care.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.