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TAFP Board of Directors votes unanimously to provide unqualified support for Medicaid expansion in Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS — The Texas Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors voted unanimously to support expansion of the state’s Medicaid program to meet the health care needs of Texans. The vote came during the organization’s Interim Session meeting on March 2, 2013.

“We have an historic opportunity to leverage significant federal funds to provide working-age uninsured Texans with health insurance coverage to shield them from catastrophic events and medical bankruptcy,” says TAFP President Troy Fiesinger, M.D., a family physician in Sugar Land. “Medicaid expansion also protects our state’s economic health and the fiscal well-being of hospitals and county governments.”

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, states can expand Medicaid coverage to citizens under age 65 with family incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or roughly \$31,000 a year for a family of four. The federal government will pay for 100 percent of the costs of Medicaid expansion for the first three years.

“Medicaid expansion will allow Texas to continue the important work of transforming our health care delivery system away from a volume-based, productivity model of care to one based on outcomes and value,” Fiesinger says. “Through the expansion of Medicaid, Texas can emphasize personal responsibility within the system while investing in graduate medical education to increase our state’s capacity to recruit and train new physicians. These strategies will help ensure that all Texans can access appropriate, high-quality and cost-effective health care when they need it.”

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.