

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Medical Leaders Applaud the Pennsylvania Patient Trust Act for Starting an Important Conversation on Political Interference in the Patient-Physician Relationship**

*The Pennsylvania Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians urge the Pennsylvania legislature to safeguard the patient-physician relationship.*

HARRISBURG, PA – September 30, 2015 – House Bill 1105, better known as [The Patient Trust Act](#), introduced today by Rep. Dan Frankel (D., Allegheny), is a welcome and positive step to help ensure that patients receive care that is based on medical evidence, not politics. If passed, this legislation would prohibit states from interfering with the relationship between health care professionals and their patients.

Across the country, legislatures are inappropriately inserting politics into exam rooms and requiring health care professionals to violate their medical training and ethical obligations. This interference is dangerous, and it impacts all areas of medical care.

Efforts to legislate medical care drive a wedge between patients and health care providers, and weaken the patient-physician relationship. Patients must be able to trust that their care is based on their physicians' best medical judgment, and physicians must be able to provide care that is based on their medical knowledge and the best interests of their patients. No physician should be forced to choose between following their medical training or following the law.

We are grateful to Rep. Frankel for introducing this bill and urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass it.

*“We, PA ACOG, applaud introduction of the legislation that protects the sanctity of the doctor patient relationship. There exists no relationship more personal than between a woman and her OBGYN. Rep Frankel’s bill assures personal medical decision making is based upon medical evidence, not politics.” Kurt T. Barnhart, MD, FACOG (Chair, PA ACOG)*

*“We have always appreciated the Pennsylvania legislature's commitment to high-quality care through protecting the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship,” said Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians President Nicole Davis, MD. “This effort would further that long-standing tradition.”*

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The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure a patient-centered medical home for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

The Pennsylvania Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists aims to coordinate the efforts of ob-gyns in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to secure and maintain the best patient care and the highest standard of practice in obstetrics and gynecology. This is principally accomplished through study of the scientific, socioeconomic and legislative aspects of the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. The PA Section of ACOG also aims to educate the public concerning the type of service rendered by ob-gyns.