



WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**STRONG MEDICINE FOR WISCONSIN**

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February 11, 2009

Senator Julie Lassa, Chair  
Performance-Based Disease Management Programs for Large Populations Committee  
WI State Capitol, Room 323-South  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Lassa:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP), I would like to take this opportunity to request your support for the inclusion of the Patient-Centered Medical Home pilot program for Medicaid recipients (WLC: 0389/1) in the Special Committee's recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a proven health care delivery model in which a primary care physician is engaged in every aspect of a patient's care and coordinates a team of specialty practitioners to meet the patient's medical needs at each stage of life. This unique approach improves medical outcomes, reduces complications and eliminates unnecessary care.

The PCMH places an emphasis on prevention to reduce overall care costs and is structured to focus on the patient, who benefits directly through greater access to needed services and the effective management of their health and wellness. The model also promotes patient involvement in their own care and helps them to understand and navigate a complex health care system.

The PCMH initiative (WLC: 0389/1) could also help attract much-needed primary care physicians to Wisconsin through its favorable payment structure. Under the proposal, physician practices that qualify as patient-centered medical homes and participate in the pilot program would receive increased Medical Assistance reimbursements.

With the state facing an unprecedented budget deficit, it's also important to point out that the PCMH model could save Wisconsin's Medicaid program millions of dollars. Significant cost savings have been demonstrated in other states. For example, North Carolina, which implemented the PCMH model for its Medicaid recipients, has saved over \$240 million annually in each of the last four years.

Again, I would urge the Committee to include the PCMH pilot program (WLC: 0389/1) in their final recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

*Andrea M. Gavin, M.D.*

**Andrea Gavin, MD - President**  
**Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians**

cc: Committee members