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Senator Craig Estes receives Patient Advocacy Award

DALLAS, TEXAS — State Senator Craig Estes has been named the recipient of the 2016 Patient Advocacy Award by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. He accepted the award at the organization’s 2016 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in Dallas on Nov. 5. The award honors an individual who demonstrates a commitment to protecting and advancing the welfare of patients in Texas.

When the Wichita Falls Family Practice Residency Program faced the possibility of closure earlier this year, Sen. Estes brought the parties involved together to forge an agreement and save the program. Working alongside TAFP, Sen. Estes made sure everyone in the negotiations seriously considered the ramifications such a closure would have to the community, patient access to care, and future physician workforce trends.

“The patients of North Texas and the future family physicians who will receive their training in Wichita Falls are fortunate to have such an attentive and caring advocate as Senator Craig Estes on their side,” said TAFP President Ajay Gupta, MD.

Through Sen Estes’ hard work, the Wichita Falls Family Medicine Residency Program joined forces with a local community health center and will continue operations, serving more patients and provide residents even more clinical training opportunities than before.

“I was honored to receive the 2016 Patient Advocacy Award, and I am thankful to have the Wichita Falls Family Practice Residency Program continue to provide needed services to the Wichita Falls community. It is important for rural communities to have access to health care, and I am committed to doing my best to see that these communities are provided for in Texas.”

Sen. Estes represents the 30th Senatorial District located in North Texas and has served his constituents for 15 years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and as a member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs, Health and Human Services, and Nominations. Senator Estes was born in Wichita Falls, and represents the fifth generation of his family to call North Texas home.

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. TAFP has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.