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CONTACT:

Samantha White
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
(512) 329-8666 ext. 116
swhite@tafp.org

State Rep. Suleman Lalani, MD, receives Texas Academy of Family Physicians Patient Advocacy Award

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS — State Representative Suleman Lalani, MD, of Sugar Land, Texas, is the recipient of the 2023 Texas Academy of Family Physicians Patient Advocacy Award. The award was presented to Lalani on Nov. 30 at the Memorial Hermann Southwest Family Medicine Residency Program in Sugar Land. This award is given to a person the president recognizes as demonstrating a commitment to protecting and advancing the welfare of patients in Texas.

Rep. Lalani is in his first term in the Texas House of Representatives where he represents Texas House District 76, which encompasses parts of Fort Bend County, including Sugar Land.

When announcing the award, TAFP Past President Emily Briggs, MD, MPH, thanked Rep. Lalani for his involvement in the state's increased investment of the Texas primary care workforce.

"Thanks to his and some of his colleagues' efforts," Briggs said, "the state created the Rural Resident Physician Grant Program, as well as increased funding for the Family Practice Residency Program, for the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program, and for the Texas Primary Care Preceptorship Program."

Rep. Lalani thanked the residents and faculty gathered for the award ceremony and encouraged them to engage in advocacy for their patients. "You all are a powerhouse. Utilize that. This award really belongs to you all because you are the hope for the future of health 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. TAFP has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.