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CONTACT:

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

State Rep. Hillary Hickland receives Texas Academy of Family Physicians Patient Advocacy Award

ADDISON, TEXAS — State Representative Hillary Hickland of Belton, Texas, is the recipient of the 2025 Texas Academy of Family Physicians Patient Advocacy Award. The award was presented to Hickland on Nov. 15 at TAFP's Annual Session and Primary Care Summit. 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. Hickland is in her first term in the Texas House of Representatives where she represents Texas House District 55, which covers central Bell County and includes the cities of Temple, Belton, and Killeen.

When announcing the award, TAFP Past President Lindsay Botsford, MD, MBA, thanked Rep. Hickland for her involvement in the state's increased investment of family medicine obstetrics fellowships.

"Most notably," Botsford said, "Representative Hickland played a vital role in helping us secure \$5 million in new state funding to support family medicine obstetrics fellowships. This investment will expand fellowship opportunities across Texas and help cover salaries and benefits for physicians training to serve rural and underserved communities."

The daughter of longtime TAFP member Ron McMurry, MD, Hickland says she "knows a little something" about family medicine. Her husband and her younger brother are also family doctors. "It's something that is very near and dear to my heart," she said of the specialty when receiving the award. "Your journey, your challenges are something that I am very familiar with and the need for access to quality health care in rural Texas is something that I'm very passionate about."

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.

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