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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Canton Family Physician Shares Concerns with Legislators

(Columbus, Ohio)—Jon Seager, M.D., of North Canton, Ohio, (44720) met with state lawmaker Rep. Scott Oelslager on May 13 to discuss legislation affecting family medicine.

Seager met with Rep. Oelslager as part of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians 2009 Robert S. Young, M.D., Legislative Conference and Reception held at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. This biannual conference provides the opportunity for family physicians across the state to learn more about the state legislative issues affecting family medicine and primary care. An evening reception with members of the Ohio General Assembly follows the conference where family physicians talk about the issues covered in the conference sessions.

As a result of this meeting, Seager was able to advocate for more funding for the family medicine line item in the state budget bill (Amended Substitute House Bill 1). The line item provides much needed funding to help educate and produce adequate numbers of family physicians so that patients may have family physicians that provide them with a personal medical home and high quality, cost effective healthcare. With medical school debts in excess of \$150,000, medical students are trending away from selecting primary care as their specialty, instead opting for more lucrative specialties. Retaining a sufficient number of primary care physicians in Ohio ensures that each an every Ohioan receives care through a patient-centered, physician-led medical home, which will lead to a healthier Ohio.

Other issues discussed included the future of Medicaid managed care, electronic health records and the federal economic stimulus package, and Ohio's pandemic flu preparedness and the H1N1 outbreak coordinated by Ohio Department of Health.

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide, professional association with more than 4,400 members, including practicing physicians, family medicine residents and medical students. The scope of family medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes and every disease entity. Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuing care to all members of the family. For more information, visit www.ohioafp.org.

Editor's Note

To receive a copy of the photo with Seager and Oelslager at the OAFP conference, please send an e-mail to Megan Smith at msmith@ohioafp.org or call (614) 267-7867.