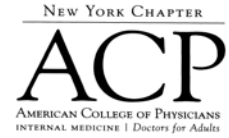


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 2, 2008

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The Right Turn at the Right Time – New York Precedent Setting Health Care Reform Budget

(ALBANY) - The New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (NYACP), representing 12,000 physicians specializing in Internal Medicine across New York State, applauds Governor Paterson, the members of the Senate and Assembly for working together to enact a historic health care reform package that promotes investment in primary and preventive care.

“These are the most significant reimbursement changes to occur in New York State for primary care physicians. This budget not only supports efforts to Address the looming shortage of primary care physicians by offering loan forgiveness and practice start-up incentives for those who will practice in underserved areas, but it also promotes training of residents in physician offices where care takes place,” said **Linda Lambert**, Executive Director of the New York Chapter, American College of Physicians.

“Every patient in New York State deserves a long-term relationship with a personal physician who will work with them to make important decisions about their health care. This 2008-2009 budget recognizes that primary care physicians are the cornerstone of the healthcare system, and reimbursement reforms including the Doctors Across New York program, will support the steps toward care coordination to improve health outcomes and reduce costs,” said **Stephen Peterson**, MD, FACP, NYACP Chapter President.

New York now serves as a model in setting priorities in healthcare that will have lasting effects on quality and costs in the years to come. The bold steps taken by the Governor and the Legislature in refocusing health care expenditures is the right turn at the right time, and it means a healthier New York.

Linda Lambert, CAE, is the executive director of the New York Chapter, American College of Physicians.

Stephen Peterson, MD, FACP, is a general internist and primary care physician, and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at New York Medical College.
