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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2017

Local Family Physician Engages Legislators at the Capitol

RIDGELAND – “Family Physician” of “City” attended The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) Capitol Day on February 22 at the MS State Capitol in Jackson. Family Physicians from all over the state participated in a day of activities highlighting family medicine.

MAFP Capitol Day began with a buffet breakfast in the Capitol Rotunda, during which doctors met with legislators to increase awareness of issues affecting family medicine. Legislators had the opportunity to be screened for cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure from MEA Medical Clinics. MAFP members met for lunch to hear updates on federal and state issues. Later in the day, MAFP served desserts and coffee to legislators and presented them a keepsake Mississippi mug.

When each House convened, MAFP members were recognized and introduced, including Dr. Sue Simmons, MAFP President, of Maben. “We are glad to have this opportunity to recognize our state legislators for their support,” Simmons said, “and we’re especially excited to highlight our current efforts to advance family medicine in Mississippi.”

Related organizations also taking part were:

- Students and residents from the MS Rural Physician Scholarship Program were there showcasing the program funded by the Mississippi Legislature since 2007. In ten years, the program has awarded \$10.8 million in scholarships to 133 medical students who have committed to practicing primary care medicine in Mississippi’s rural communities, after their medical training. By summer of 2017, there will be 25 new primary care physicians working in Mississippi’s rural areas.

- The MAFP Foundation was present to promote tobacco cessation programs and the “Live Healthy” specialty car tag, available for \$31 at each county’s tax collector’s office. Proceeds from the car tag go to medical students and residents who need financial assistance in order to attend national medical meetings.

- The Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce was on hand to promote their work on the state’s physician workforce development needs. Since its creation in 2012, OMPW has developed Family Medicine residency programs, fostered the development of a physician workforce in several specialties, and established the state’s current and future workforce requirements. The OMPW is responsible for assisting in the development of two new Family Medicine residency programs in Meridian and Hattiesburg.

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The MAFP has over 1,000 members consisting of physicians, residents and medical students. The MAFP is dedicated to advancing the specialty of Family Medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi. The vision of the MAFP is for every person in Mississippi to have access and availability to a well-trained family physician to manage their medical care.

MISSION: Dedicated to advancing the specialty of Family Medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi.