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Blair Cushing, DO, receives Patient Advocacy Award

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS — Blair Cushing, DO, has been named the recipient of the 2015 Patient Advocacy Award by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. She accepted the award at the organization's 2015 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in The Woodlands on Nov. 14. The award honors an individual who demonstrates a commitment to protecting and advancing the welfare of patients in Texas.

Cushing completed a public policy rotation with the Academy as a medical student during the 84th Texas Legislative session. During this rotation she helped develop policy options for the legislature to consider involving physician workforce and testified in multiple settings, including both the senate and house.

Her efforts resulted in what ultimately became the passage of Senate Bill 18 by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, which addressed the state's physician workforce needs by prioritizing the creation of new primary care residency positions and a restoration of funding for the Texas Statewide Primary Care Preceptorship Program.

Cushing graduated from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas, and is a first-year family medicine resident at Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, California.

Family physicians like Cushing are qualified to work in all major medical areas and trained to treat more than 90 percent of all cases they encounter. Family physicians care for patients of all ages.

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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