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## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Tennessee Primary Care Association presents Awards of Excellence to state health leaders**

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) -- The Tennessee Primary Care Association recently recognized two leaders for their contributions to improving health care throughout the state.

**State Senator Doug Overbey**, who represents Blount and Sevier counties in East Tennessee, received the Association's William V. Corr Award, which honors outstanding leadership resulting in health policy development in Tennessee. The award recognizes Overbey's sponsorship of a bill that would have enacted Insure Tennessee, Governor Haslam's plan to expand access to health care for thousands of Tennesseans, and his sponsorship of a budget amendment that increased the state's Safety Net Fund by \$1.5 million in FY 2017. The Safety Net Fund supports primary care services for uninsured adults in Tennessee. Overbey has served in the State Senate since 2008 and previously served in the State House of Representatives for eight years.

"Senator Overbey has distinguished himself through his compassion for those who lack adequate primary health care," said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, TPCA's chief executive officer. "We are happy to honor him with this award, and look forward to working with him and his colleagues to make quality health care accessible to more Tennesseans."

**Dr. Matt Rafalski**, clinical information technology director for Jellico-based Dayspring Family Health Center, received the Susan P. Smith Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in advancing health center programs and work to strengthen partnerships between health centers and TPCA staff. In addition to his work as a physician, Rafalski has worked with TPCA and other health centers across the state to implement software programs that will promote collaboration, cost-effectiveness, and generally healthier communities throughout Tennessee.

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## *TPCA Awards of Excellence ... 2/2*

“Senator Overbey and Dr. Rafalski are both very deserving of their awards,” said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, TPCA’s chief executive officer. “They are committed to making our state stronger by improving the health of its citizens. That is a commitment that TPCA and all its members share and support.”

The Tennessee Primary Care Association improves access to primary health care through leadership, advocacy, and support as the voice of Community Health Centers. TPCA’s membership is comprised of more than 30 non-profit primary care clinics operating more than 200 satellite sites that provide high quality, comprehensive primary care to people across the state. Member health centers served more than 384,000 Tennesseans in 2014.

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### **About the Award of Excellence namesakes**

William V. Corr, J.D., organized and administered community health services in East Tennessee in the early 1970s. He worked with state policy makers to analyze Tennessee law and its impact on the delivery of primary care. His work laid the foundation for future primary care policy, and Corr and his colleagues helped to form the Tennessee Primary Health Association (precursor to TPCA) in 1976. He currently serves as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Susan P. Smith was a certificated family nurse practitioner and a member of the U.S. Public Health Service Commission Corps who provided nursing services in the mid-1970s to a community health center in Bean Station, Tenn. She also helped to organize the Association and served on its board as an officer and director for three years.