THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA | LE COLLÈGE DES MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE DU CANADA

To whom it may concern,

As members of the Focus on Family Medicine Task Force we, the undersigned strongly support the calls to action proposed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) to reduce administrative burden on family physicians through the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence scribes (AI scribes). At a time when 6 million Canadians do not have access to a regular family doctor, reducing unnecessary administrative work is essential to reducing burnout and increasing ability to deliver patient care.

We call for the federal government to fulfil its pre-election commitment and fully cover the costs of AI Scribe licenses for all family physicians in Canada. This change would benefit patients and physicians alike, delivering positive change across the country.

AI scribes reduce administrative burden by transcribing and summarizing visits in real time, updating electronic medical records, and generating documents such as referral letters. Avoidable, unnecessary administrative burden has been linked with family physicians leaving the field, cutting back their hours, and discouraging medical students from going into their specialty. The responsible, human-verified use of AI scribes is key to reducing administrative burden and can save up to 64 minutes per day and increase physicians' ability to be present with their patients.

Time-limited funding programs will not be enough to overcome the barriers family doctors face when trying to integrate AI scribes into their practice. Family doctors need an assurance of stable and predictable support that recognizes their foundational role in the health care system. Without robust funding for high-quality software, physicians may resort to suboptimal solutions that fail to meet appropriate privacy and security standards - standards that could be better ensured through a pre-approved list of supported products.

The federal funding is estimated to require $100 million per year, the amount the Liberal campaign platform earmarked for reduction of administrative burden in its Fiscal and Costing Plan. These funds could be injected into Canadian innovation, encouraging investment into made-in-Canada AI Scribe solutions.

Investment into AI Scribes will support increased access to care, a more sustainable family practice, and will lead to a stronger, healthier Canada. We are calling on your leadership to help realize the potential of this proposal

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Sincerely,



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