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Family Reach welcomes Melissa Walsh to the Board of Directors

Melissa Walsh is the current Vice President of State Government Affairs at AbbVie. AbbVie is a highly focused research-driven biopharmaceutical company.

Boston, MA [July 23rd, 2020] — Family Reach, a national organization focused on providing financial wrap around services to families facing cancer, has named Melissa Walsh as a member of the Board of Directors. AbbVie invested \$5 million dollars in Family Reach in 2018 and has a strong understanding of the mission and vision of the organization.

Walsh joins the Family Reach Board of Directors, along with members Tracy Ott Foster, Richard J. Morello, Jennifer Winterhalter, Peter Merrigan, Tim Moore, Ming Tsai, Christopher Wiatrak, and Dr. Yousuf Zafar.

“I think our collective goal should be to eradicate financial hardship for families impacted by cancer,” said Walsh. “It’s an incredibly ambitious goal, but taking our sights off that as the ultimate goal would take away from achieving the impacts for our families that they need us to.”

Melissa currently serves as Vice President of State Government Affairs at AbbVie, where she leads AbbVie’s best-in-class strategies and programs that advance the company’s commitment to improving health outcomes, operating responsibility, and contributing to communities.

She joined AbbVie as Regional Director, State Government Affairs in the Northeast, managing regulatory and policy activities impacting biopharmaceutical and healthcare industries. Previously, she served as the Chief of Staff at the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Prior to that, she served as Chief Operating Officer at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, developing and implementing the state's one billion dollar Life Sciences Initiative. As a Government Relations Associate with Partners Healthcare, she worked to craft and pass Massachusetts's landmark healthcare reform law.

Melissa began her career as a litigator in private practice. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut, and her Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School. She is an Eisenhower Fellow, and currently serves as the President of the AbbVie Patient Assistant Foundation, Vice President of the AbbVie Foundation and Vice President of the North Chicago Education Fund.

Family Reach's CEO Carla Tardif applauded the announcement.

"Melissa has been such a huge part of our success at Family Reach," she said. "She is invested in our vision and brings a skill set and professional experience that will help us take another giant leap forward. There is no doubt that Melissa will play a key role in allowing us to expand in areas needed as we focus on systemic change and long term solutions for cancer patients and their families.



About Family Reach

Family Reach is a national organization dedicated to eradicating the financial barriers that accompany a cancer diagnosis, a widespread issue. We work with patients and healthcare professionals at more than 400 top-tier hospitals and cancer centers. Family Reach developed the solutions-oriented Financial Treatment program to reach patients with support before they hit critical breaking points. The program includes services like Financial Education, Resource Navigation, Financial Planning, and the Emergency Relief Fund.

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