AAFP 2016 Agenda for the Reference Committee on Health of the Public & Science

National Conference of Constituency Leaders — Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

Item No.	Resolution Title
1. Resolution No. 3001	Extended Care Facility Placement Should Not Require a Three Day Inpatient Stay
2. Resolution No. 3002	Decreasing Drug Prices for Medicare Recipients and Strengthening Medicare
3. Resolution No. 3003	To Improve Access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP) Training
4. Resolution No. 3004	Increased Access for Providers to Prescribe to Anti-Hepatitis Medications
5. Resolution No. 3005	Following HIV Testing Guidelines from the CDC
6. Resolution No. 3006	Sweet and Accurate Food Labeling
7. Resolution No. 3007	Oppose Transphobic Legislation Regarding the Use of Public Facilities
8. Resolution No. 3008	Increasing Education, Research and Access for Opioid Addiction Treatment
9. Resolution No. 3009	Care and Support of Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming (T/GNC) Youth
10. Resolution No. 3010	Promotion of Parity in Insurance Coverage for Transition- Related Transgender Care
11. Resolution No. 3011	Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Primary Care Practices
12. Resolution No. 3012	Updating of AAFP Reproductive Decisions Policy



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1 Extended Care Facility Placement Should Not Require a Three Day Inpatient Stay 2 3 Submitted by: MiLinda Zabramba, MD, New Physicians 4 Rupal Bhingradia, MD, New Physicians 5 Alberto Marcelin, MD, New Physicians 6 7 WHEREAS, currently, Medicare is the only insurance company that requires a three midnight 8 inpatient stay for disposition to extended care facility, and 9 10 WHEREAS, these patients are above the age of 65 and frequently frail with multiple medical comorbidities, and 11 12 13 WHEREAS, patients discharged home despite being recommended to discharge to extended care facility (ECF) by physical and occupational therapies, are at risk for falls, injury, worsening of 14 chronic conditions and over all, an increase in health care cost, morbidity and mortality, now, 15 therefore, be it 16 17 18 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) draft a letter to the Centers 19 for Medicare and Medicaid Services to remove the requirement of an inpatient stay and three 20 midnight stay to qualify for extended care facility placement.



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Decreasing Drug Prices for Medicare Recipients and Strengthening Medicare

Submitted by: Alma Littles, MD, FAAFP, Minority Karen L. Smith, MD, FAAFP, Minority

WHEREAS, By law, traditional Medicare (Part B) is prohibited from negotiating prescription drug prices with manufacturers. All negotiations are done by Medicare Advantage plans (Part C) or individual Medicare Prescription Drug plans (Part D). The inability of traditional Medicare to negotiate results in drug prices that are 73% higher than Medicaid prices, increases cost-shifting to beneficiaries, decreases adherence, and prohibits Medicare from saving almost \$16 billion dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the *Medicare Modernization Act (MMA)* was passed, resulting in the creation of publicly funded, privately run Medicare Prescription Drug plans (Part D). These plans, along with the Medicare Advantage plans (Part C), provided access to prescription drugs for enrolled Medicare beneficiaries for the first time. Included in the *MMA* is a clause that prohibits the federal government from negotiating prices with drug manufacturers and instead leaves negotiation to the commercial Medicare Part D plans. Additionally, the law ended prescription drug rebates for Medicare and Medicaid ("dually eligible") patients, and

WHEREAS, these two elements of the *MMA* have resulted in brand-name drug prices for Medicare Part D beneficiaries that are 73% higher than for Medicaid beneficiaries and 80% higher than for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) beneficiaries. For cost savings, Medicaid programs rely primarily on rebates from drug manufacturers, and the VHA relies on a combination of rebates, negotiations, and active formulary management. If Part D plans were to obtain brand-name drugs at the same price as Medicaid or the VHA or through similar means, Medicare (and therefore taxpayers) would save nearly \$16 billion annually. Additionally, allowing medication importation and re-importation of Canadian or American manufactured drugs from Canada can lower costs even further, and

WHEREAS, recent events, including the \$84,000 pricing of Sovaldi and the 5,000% price increase of Daraprim, have shined a spotlight on the fact that there is little that stops brand name drug manufacturers from charging as much as possible for potentially life-saving drugs. As out of pocket medical costs (premiums, deductibles, and co-pays) rise, with the coverage gap ("donut hole") still present, and with seniors spending an average of 37% of their Social Security checks on medical costs, it is important to decrease drug costs in order to provide needed relief to both Medicare beneficiaries and taxpayers. While the *Affordable Care Act* has some provisions that address the "donut hole", the law merely addresses out of pocket costs and is an incomplete solution, and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) took a legislative stance and supported safe, effective, and affordable medications

(http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/drug-pricing.html), which was reaffirmed in 2014. In addition, a 2006 Robert Graham Center Policy Report (http://www.aafp.org/afp/2006/0201/p402.html)

similarly recognized that increased out of pocket costs decreases adherence to medication. With the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) on the horizon, the AAFP has advocated including drug prices in the calculation of value-based payment. Decreasing out-of-pocket medication costs and simplifying formularies helps Medicare beneficiaries stay adherent to their medications and stay healthy. It also decreases the time physicians waste in determining the medications on the formulary, and

WHEREAS, overall, this is an issue that directly impacts all Medicare beneficiaries who need prescription drugs, and the family physicians and health care systems who take care of them. Currently, there are multiple bills in both houses of Congress that address these three issues, including H.R. 1042 (Medicare Fair Drug Pricing Act), S. 1083 (Medicare Drug Savings Act), and S. 22 (Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act), and

WHEREAS, the AAFP's Single-Payer Health Care Member Interest Group recommends supporting such legislation as a way to strengthen Medicare and expand it to all Americans, which helps achieve the AAFP goal of health care for all, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for strengthening Medicare by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices and to actively manage formularies, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for reinstating prescription drug rebates for low income Medicare beneficiaries.



Resolution No. 3003

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1 To Improve Access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP) Training 2 3 Submitted by: Scott Hartman, MD, FAAFP, GLBT 4 Karen Krigger, MD, Minority Ada Stewart, MD, FAAFP, Minority 5 6 Randy Gelow, II, MD, GLBT 7 Adnan Ahmed, MD, IMG 8 Lisa Winkler, MD, Women 9 Valerie Mutchler-Fornili, MD, Women Joann Buonomano, MD, FAAFP, Women 10 11 WHEREAS, There are 1.2 million United States (U.S.) citizens infected with Human 12 13 Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and 14 15 WHEREAS, there are 40,000 new HIV infections yearly in the U.S., and 16 17 WHEREAS, 1 in 2 black men who have sex with men (MSM), 1 in 4 Latino MSM and 1 in 11 white MSM will contract HIV in their life-times MSMs continue to face the greatest burden of HIV with 1 in 18 19 6 MSM facing risk of HIV, and 20 21 WHEREAS, African-Americans remain the most affected racial or ethnic group, with 1 in 20 men, and 1 in 48 women at risk for HIV in their lifetime, and 22 23 24 WHEREAS, those who inject drugs are at much higher risk than the general population, with 1 in 25 23 for women, and 1 in 36 for men, and 26 27 WHEREAS, by region, people living in the southern U.S. face the highest risks for HIV, including 28 Washington, D.C. (1 in 13) and the states of Maryland (1 in 49), Georgia (1 in 51), Florida (1 in 54), 29 and Louisiana (1 in 56), and 30 WHEREAS, meeting the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) 2020 target of increasing the 31 percentage of people living with HIV who are diagnosed to 90%, and the percentage of persons 32 33 with an HIV diagnosis who are virally suppressed to 80%, could prevent 168,000 new HIV 34 infections, and 35 36 WHEREAS, rapid uptake of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) can help prevent another 17,000 37 infections if treatment of 40% of high-risk MSM.10% of injection drug users.10% of high-risk 38 heterosexuals, and 39 40 WHEREAS, if current rates of diagnosis, care, and treatment are maintained from 2015-2020; 41 more than 265,000 new infections could occur over that period without PrEP, and

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46	WHEREAS, approximately 24.7% of sexually active adult MSM (492,000), 18.5% of persons who
47	inject drugs (115,000), and 0.4% of heterosexually active adults (624,000) had substantial risks for
48	acquiring HIV consistent with PrEP indications, and
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50	WHEREAS, provision of PrEP is within the scope of care by family physicians, and
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52	WHEREAS, patients are having a hard time finding a PrEP provider, and
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54	WHEREAS, Ryan White HIV providers cannot provide services to HIV uninfected patients, now,
55	therefore, be it
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57	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) should include Pre-
58	exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) education in Continuing Medical Education (CME) offerings, and be it
59	further
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61	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) writes a letter to strongly

recommend to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) require Pre-

exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) education as part of the family medicine core competencies.

WHEREAS, one-third of U.S. primary care physicians are unaware that there is a daily prophylactic medication that can reduce the risk of sexually transmitted HIV by 90%, and

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Resolution No. 3004

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Increased Access for Providers to Prescribe to Anti-Hepatitis Medications

2 3 Submitted by: Tobe Momati, MD, New Physicians 4 Alex Faustin, MD, Minority 5 Alberto Marcelin, MD, New Physicians 6 7 WHEREAS, More than 3.5 million Americans currently suffer from hepatitis C and more than 17,000 were infected in 2014 and there is a shortage of infectious disease physicians and 8 hepatologists to provide care for this number of patients, now, therefore, be it 9 10 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) write a statement to Gilead 11 pharmaceuticals, who are the sole manufacturers of the anti-hepatitis products (including Harvoni 12 13 and Sovaldi), advocating a lift of restrictions on non-infectious disease and hepatology physicians from prescribing the above anti-hepatitis medications in order to facilitate the care of hepatitis C 14 15 patients.



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1	Following HIV Testing Guidelines from the CDC
2 3 4 5 6 7	Submitted by: Brent Sugimoto, MD, GLBT Benjamin Simmons, MD, GLBT Susan Osborne, MD, GLBT Santina Wheat, MD, New Physician
8 9 10 11 12	WHEREAS, The 2013 NCCL Resolution 3007 "Update on HIV Screening" was adopted by the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) to change current American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) practice recommendations to screen adolescents and adults ages 18 to 65 years for HIV infection, and
13 14 15 16	WHEREAS, the AAFP Board of Directors upon review accepted it for information but stated that the resolution was not consistent with current AAFP HIV policy as reviewed in 2013 and did not address screening based on risk or community rates, and
17 18 19 20	WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 34% of high school students reported sexual intercourse during the previous 3 months, yet 41% did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse, and
21 22 23	WHEREAS, in 2014 almost 10,000 youth ages 13 to 24 were diagnosed with HIV, which represented 22% of all new HIV diagnoses, and
24 25 26	WHEREAS, from 2005-2014 HIV diagnoses among black and Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men ages 13 to 24 increased 87%, and
27 28 29	WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that everyone ages 13 to 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, now, therefore, be it
30 31 32 33	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) amend its guidelines to reflect those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in recommending that everyone ages 13 to 64 be offered HIV testing be offered at least once as part of routine health care.



its naturally occurring state.

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Resolution No. 3006

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1 2	Sweet and Accurate Food Labeling
3	Submitted by: Valerie Mutchler-Rorneli, MD, Women
4	Maria deArman, MD, Women
5	Heather Aguirre, DO, General Registrant
6	Kevin Bernstein, MD, New Physicians
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8 9	WHEREAS, The 2015-2020 World Health Organizations Guidelines recommend for adults and children intake of free sugars to less than 10% of their total energy intake (caloric intake), and
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11	WHEREAS, the evidence shows that adults who consume less sugar have lower body weight, and
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13	WHEREAS, that increasing the amount of sugars in the diet is associated with a weight increase,
14	and
15	
16	WHEREAS, the recommendation is further supported by evidence showing higher rates of dental
17	caries (commonly referred to as tooth decay) when the intake of free sugar is above 10% of total
18	energy intake compared with an intake of free sugars below 10% of total energy intake, and
19	MULEDEAC is laber 2045 the Food and Durin Administration (FDA) is available and large and all manners of
20 21	WHEREAS, in July 2015 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a supplemental proposed
22	rule that would require declaration of the % Daily Value for added sugar and mandated accurate labeling of food stuffs, now, therefore, be it
23	labeling of 100d sturis, flow, therefore, be it
24	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) publicly support the 2015
25	Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed rule to properly and accurately label all food with
26	the % Daily Value (%DV) for added sugar excluding naturally occurring sugars in milk and fruit in
	the 70 bany value (70b v) for added eagar excluding naturally decarring eagars in filling and fruit in



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1 Oppose Transphobic Legislation Regarding the Use of Public Facilities 2 3 Submitted by: Marian C. Allen, MD, GLBT 4 Joseph Freund, MD, GLBT 5 Joann Buonomano, MD, FAAFP, Women Jessica Guh, MD, Minority 6 7 Kevin Wang, MD, FAAFP, GLBT 8 9 WHEREAS, Transgender people experience worse health, compared with cisqender people due to avoidance of care, stress from discrimination and alienation, and higher rates of sexual and 10 11 physical violence, and 12 13 WHEREAS, "gender dysphoria intensifies over time and, when inadequately treated, can lead to 14 clinically significant psychological distress, dysfunction, debilitating depression, self-surgery, and 15 suicidality," and 16 17 WHEREAS, nine bills have been introduced in various states across the United States in January 18 2016 dictating the use of public facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms; and these bills 19 require people to use public facilities that correspond with their biological sex identified at birth and/or chromosomes, instead of their gender identity, and 20 21 22 WHEREAS, "all people share the real human need for safe restroom facilities when we go to work, 23 go to school, and participate in public life," and 24 25 WHEREAS, being required to use a public facility that does not correspond with gender identity is 26 a health issue that negatively affects transgender people, increasing the risk of sexual, verbal, and 27 physical harassment and violence, and 28 29 WHEREAS, inability to access restroom facilities and avoidance of restroom use is a health issue and has been shown to lead to problems including dehydration, kidney infections and urinary tract 30 31 infections, and 32 33 WHEREAS, proposed legislation effectively makes it illegal for transgender people to live as the 34 gender with which they identify, which as described above, has significant health implications and 35 furthermore sends the message to transgender people that they are unwanted, unprotected, and 36 unworthy of policing, and

WHEREAS, current federal nondiscrimination laws covering public accommodations cover only race, color, religion, national origin and disability and does not prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation in public accommodations, and

WHEREAS, the majority of states prohibit discrimination based on sex in public accommodations leading many state courts and enforcement agencies to interpret these laws to protect transgender people, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physician (AAFP) already has policy opposing "all discrimination in any form, including but not limited to, that on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic affiliation, health, age, disability, economic status, body habitus, or national origin," more specific policy can be implemented to protect the rights and health of transgender people, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) endorse existing antidiscrimination state and federal laws protecting people from discrimination based on gender expression and identity and oppose laws that compromise the safety and health of transgender people, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) supports work to include sex, gender identity and sexual orientation to federal anti-discrimination legislation in, "public accommodations, housing, employment in public and private workplaces."



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1	Increasing Education, Research and Access for Opioid Addiction Treatment
2 3 4 5 6	Submitted by: Lisa Winkler, MD, Women Tabatha Wells, MD, General Registrant Emma Daisy, MD, General Registrant
7 8 9	WHEREAS, There is a significant worsening public health problem surrounding opioid abuse and opioid related deaths, and
10 11 12 13 14	WHEREAS, more people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any other year and 6/10 of these deaths were related to opioid abuse. Since 1999, the rate of overdose deaths have nearly quadrupled. From 2000-2014, nearly half a million people have died from opioid abuse. Nearly 78 people die each day from opioid overdose, and
15 16 17	WHEREAS, the family physician is among the first line of contact for treatment and prevention of opioid related disease, including addiction and abuse, and
18 19 20	WHEREAS, the current health communities are ill equipped to treat these patients and offer addiction treatment services, and
21 22 23	WHEREAS, many addiction treatment facilities are not covered by Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance, and
24 25	WHEREAS, the family physician may not receive education or training in addiction, and
26 27 28	WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physician (AAFP) policy statement supports the education and training of family physicians in identification and treatment of opioid addiction, and
29 30 31	WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends increasing access to evidence based substance abuse treatment, including medication based treatment, and
32 33 34 35	WHEREAS, there is limited coverage by current health care plans to cover current treatment practices and lack of financial resources used to develop evidence based treatment and treatment facilities, now, therefore, be it
36 37 38 39	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) increase available Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities specific to identifying and treating addiction to opioids, and be it further
40 41 42	RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for improved reimbursement for addiction services, including inpatient and outpatient treatment options, by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies, and be it further

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- RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for continued research and development of evidence-based addiction treatment options related to opioid abuse. 44



Resolution No. 3009

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Care and Support of Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming (T/GNC) Youth

2 3 Submitted by: Randy Gelow, II, MD, GLBT 4 Miranda Balkin, MD, GLBT LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD, Minority 5 Shannon Connolly, MD, Women 6 7 KrisEmily McCrory, MD, FAAFP, Women 8 Bhavik Kumar, MD, MPH, New Physicians 9 Santina Wheat, MD, New Physicians 10 11 WHEREAS, Transgender medical care (including hormone-based care) has been demonstrated to 12 be safe, and 13 14 WHEREAS, transgender and gender-nonconforming (T/GNC) youth are deeply misunderstood. This lack of misunderstanding feeds family and societal rejection and stigmatization. This shame 15 and rejection leads to self-harming behaviors, increased drug use, homelessness, Human 16 Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infection, depression, 17 and suicide (1/3 [33.2%] of T/GNC have attempted suicide), and 18 19 20 WHEREAS, care providers are often the first people parents of gender non-conforming and transgender children turn to for guidance, reassurance and appropriate medical care for their child. 21 As first responders, it is vitally important that up-to-date, accurate and gender identity-affirming 22 23 services be offered, and 24 WHEREAS, transition-related care for transgender persons, including medical suspension of 25 puberty, is medically necessary, and reduces the rate of unfavorable health outcomes, and 26 27 28 WHEREAS, lack of access to medical treatment for transition-related care has led to many 29 transgender persons to consider extraordinary measures to procure medical care, now, therefore, 30 be it 31 32 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) develop educational programs for clinicians related to the care of transgender and gender-nonconforming youth, as well 33 as incorporating youth-specific information into the general transgender care toolkit it was 34 35 previously directed to develop, and be it further 36 37 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) strongly recommend that 38 its state chapters work with school systems to lobby for supportive environments for transgender and gender nonconforming youth in schools, specifically restrooms, locker rooms, and 39 40 extracurricular programs.



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1 Promotion of Parity in Insurance Coverage for Transition-Related Transgender Care 2 3 Submitted by: Kathy Homrok, MD, GLBT 4 Randy Gelow, II, MD, GLBT 5 Valerie Mutchler-Fornili, MD, Women 6 MiLinda Nimmo Zabramba, MD, New Physicians 7 Karen Krigger, MD, FAAFP, Minority 8 Alfred Gitu, MD, FAAFP, IMG 9 10 WHEREAS, Transition-related care for transgender persons, including medical transition and 11 surgical care, is medically necessary, and reduces the rate of unfavorable health outcomes, and 12 13 WHEREAS, lack of access to medical treatment for transition-related care has led to many 14 transgender persons to consider extraordinary measures to procure medical care, and 15 16 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physicians policy on gender equality states that 17 employers and health plans should not discriminate by birth or the patient's identified gender in the 18 provision of health care benefits including a) prescription drugs and devices, b) elective sterilization 19 procedures, c) diagnostic testing, and d) medically indicated surgical procedures, and 20 21 WHEREAS, transition-related care for transgender persons, including medical transition and 22 surgical care, is medically necessary, and reduces the rate of unfavorable health outcomes, and 23 24 WHEREAS, some insurance companies have exclusions for transition-related care despite similar 25 services being covered for cisgender persons, and 26 27 WHEREAS, several states (such as California and New York) prohibit such exclusions of coverage 28 for transgender care, now, therefore, be it 29 30 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) will send letters to insurance trusts and commissioners strongly recommending policies that medical services covered 31 for the general population (including but not limited to anatomically-appropriate preventive services 32 33 not consistent with gender, cross-sex hormonal therapy, and surgery) should be covered for transgendered patients, and be it further 34 35 36 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) will create a toolkit for 37 state chapters to utilize when lobbying within their state legislatures to advocate for policies related 38 to transgender health equity at the state level.



Resolution No. 3011

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Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Primary Care Practices

2 3 Submitted by: Wayne Forde, MD, FAAFP, Minority 4 Kimberly Becher, MD, New Physicians 5 James Huang, MD, Minority 6 Jaividhya Dasarathy, MD, FAAFP, General Registrant 7 Venis Wilder, MD, General Registrant 8 Sarah McNeil, MD, Women 9 10 WHEREAS, According to 2014 Census data, an estimated 21.1% of all United States (U.S.) children younger than 18 years and an estimated 14.8% of all U.S. adults live in poverty, and 11 12 13 WHEREAS, poverty is a marker for the social determinants of health, and 14 15 WHEREAS, there are validated screening tools for use to uncover patients at risk for morbidity 16 and mortality due to the social determinants of health, and 17 18 WHEREAS, other professional organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, have 19 developed policies addressing social determinants of health screenings, and 20 21 WHEREAS, 93% of the U.S. is serviced by the 2-1-1 meant to provide rapid information and 22 referrals to health, human and social service organizations, now, therefore, be it 23 24 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) encourage its members to 25 screen for social determinants of health, and be it further 26 27 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) encourage its members to 28 make appropriate referrals to social services organizations such as 2-1-1 phone service, and be it 29 further 30 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) encourage Centers for 31 Medicaid and Medicare and other payers to include social determinants of health screening as a 32 33 quality metric, and be it further 34 35 RESOLVED, That American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) create Continuing Medical 36 Education (CME) on how to address social determinants of health in clinical practice.



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Submitted by: KrisEmily McCrory, MD, FAAFP, Women

Updating of AAFP Reproductive Decisions Policy

Shannon Connolly, MD, Women Julie Johnston, MD, Women

Tabatha Wells, MD, General Registrant Santina Wheat, MD, New Physician

WHEREAS, The current American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) policies regarding pregnancy termination as outlined on AAFP.org are inconsistent, in that the current Reproductive Decisions policy, which states that the "AAFP endorses the concept that abortion should be performed in conformance with the standards of good medical practice as determined by the laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine in that locale" can be interpreted to support any legislation deemed by a local governing body, and

WHEREAS, the current Reproductive Health Services Policy states "AAFP supports a woman's access to reproductive health services and opposes non-evidence-based restrictions on medical care and the provision of such services," which implies that governing bodies imposing nonevidence-based medical practices should not supersede the ability of a qualified physician from practicing a medically appropriate procedure, and

WHEREAS, recent state legislation has been proposed that would criminalize physicians who provide terminations services to women and there are currently 27 states that have policies or laws which are not evidence-based and thus regulate abortion providers beyond what is necessary to ensure patient safety, and

WHEREAS, the American Congress of Obstetrician and Gynecologists "opposes legislation or other requirements that single out abortion services from other outpatient procedures," and

WHEREAS, abortion is no more dangerous than other outpatient procedures for which there are no similar requirements, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) actively oppose nonevidenced-based restrictions on medical services through advocacy efforts including but not limited to letter writing and providing public testimony when appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) modify the current reproductive decisions policy to state "the AAFP endorses the concept that abortion should be performed in conformance with the standards of good medical practice as determined by evidencebased outcomes."