

6. FamMedPAC FUNDRAISING SUCCESS CONTINUES

FamMedPAC received a record level of support at the recent ACLF-NCCL meeting in Kansas City. Participants contributed \$33,368 to the PAC over the two-day meeting. The PAC is on pace to set a record for the election cycle, and our \$1 million goal is well within reach. This strong support has allowed the PAC to contribute over \$721,000 in the current cycle to 128 candidates and committees. FamMedPAC is on pace to make more campaign contributions in this cycle than in any prior election cycle. The PAC supported the following legislators this week:

- **Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)** Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and a member of the Health Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.
- **Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)**, senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee.
- **Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA)**, a member of the House Ways & Means Committee.
- **Rep. Allen Lowenthal (D-CA)**, a psychologist and member of the House Primary Care Caucus whose wife is a family physician and member of AAFP.
- **Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC)**, the Assistant Minority Leader of the House.

7. AAFP COMMENTS ON MEDICARE PART B DRUG PAYMENT PROPOSED RULE

In a [letter](#) sent to CMS on May 9, the AAFP commented on a proposed rule titled, “Medicare Program; Part B Drug Payment Model.” The letter welcomed the opportunity to improve methods by which CMS pays for Medicare Part B medications that patients receive in physician offices or hospital outpatient departments. The AAFP called for all physicians to be paid accurately for the clinical services they provide and that delivery systems should not favor certain drugs or medical devices over others.

8. VA IS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN STATE DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

The AAFP sent the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) a [letter](#) on May 5 urging that all VA prescribers participate in the state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). The letter discussed the AAFP’s deep concern that the abuse of prescription opioid painkillers is having a devastating effect on public health and safety. However, the effectiveness of PDMPs to prevent “doctor shopping” for opioids and other drugs is undercut when VA prescribers do not participate.

9. STATE LEGISLATIVE BILLS OF INTEREST

- **Anti-Trust**—The Federal Trade Commission submitted comments opposing Alabama [SB 243](#) which would allow an authority from a public university operating a medical school to be exempt from federal or state antitrust laws. The FTC commented that this bill “would prevent antitrust authorities from scrutinizing, moderating, or preventing anticompetitive mergers and conduct that would seriously harm Alabama consumers.” This measure has passed both chambers.
- **Children’s Health Insurance Program**—Arizona Governor Doug Ducey (R) signed [SB 1457](#) into law last week which requires the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to submit a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to resume enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Enrollment into KidsCare has been largely frozen since 2010.
- **Direct Primary Care**—[Nebraska](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Wyoming](#) enacted direct primary care legislation this year.
- **Medicaid Waiver**—New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) plans to seek federal approval to provide Medicaid coverage to incarcerated individuals with serious behavioral and physical health conditions prior to release. The authority for this initiative was included in the FY 2016-2017 [budget](#). New York is the first state to create a coordinated continuum of care to ensure individuals have access to the health coverage they need from release through re-entry. This is a part of New York’s efforts to reduce rates of incarceration and recidivism.