



2017 Report of the Reference Committee on Advocacy

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

1 **The Reference Committee on Advocacy has considered each of the items referred to it and**
2 **submits the following report. The committee's recommendations on each item will be**
3 **submitted as a consent calendar and voted on in one vote. Any item or items may be**
4 **extracted for debate.**

5
6 **ITEM NO. 1: RESOLUTION NO. 1001: PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN AS U.S. SURGEON**
7 **GENERAL**

8
9 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to the
10 President of the United States recommending that the Surgeon General be a primary care
11 physician, and be it further

12
13 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) establish a Speak
14 Out Campaign to help facilitate members of the AAFP to communicate with the White
15 House and their respective representatives.

16
17 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution about the current acting
18 Surgeon General and the importance of a primary care physician serving as U.S. Surgeon
19 General. The reference committee discussed the need to clarify the purpose of the Speak Out
20 campaign and agreed to revise the second resolved clause to make that clarification.

21
22 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
23 **1001, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1001:**

24
25 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to the**
26 **President of the United States recommending that the Surgeon General be a primary**
27 **care physician, and be it further**

28
29 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) establish a**
30 **Speak Out Campaign to help members of the AAFP to communicate with the White**
31 **House and federal legislators recommending that the Surgeon General be a primary**
32 **care physician.**

33
34 **ITEM NO. 2: RESOLUTION NO. 1002: CARE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FAMILY**
35 **IMMIGRATION DETENTION**

36
37 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the detention of
38 families seeking safe haven, and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the expansion of
2 family immigration detention in the United States, and be it further
3

4 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the separation of
5 parents from their children who are detained while seeking safe haven, and be it further
6

7 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians develop a policy statement
8 on family detention.
9

10 The reference committee heard testimony including concerns for women and girls that do not have
11 access to health care during detention. It was noted the American Academy of Pediatrics has
12 issued a policy statement on this issue. The reference committee agreed that the fourth resolved
13 clause should be expanded to include the issues touched on in the first three resolved clauses.
14

15 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
16 **1002, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1002:**
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18 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the detention**
19 **of families seeking safe haven, and be it further**
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21 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the expansion**
22 **of family immigration detention in the United States, and be it further**
23

24 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose the**
25 **separation of parents from their children who are detained while seeking safe haven,**
26 **and be it further**
27

28 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians develop a policy**
29 **statement on family immigration detention including but not limited to opposing the**
30 **detention of families seeking safe haven, opposing expansion of family immigration**
31 **detention in the U.S. and opposing separation of parents from their children who are**
32 **detained while seeking safe haven.**
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1 **ITEM NO. 3: RESOLUTION NO. 1003: SUPPORTING FAMILY PHYSICIANS NEGATIVELY**
2 **IMPACTED BY CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY**

3
4 RESOLVED That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation or
5 executive orders that create barriers for immigrant and non-immigrant, work Visa physicians
6 that practice in the U.S., and be it further
7

8 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a policy statement
9 regarding the important role physicians on visa waivers currently play in alleviating the
10 physician shortage and increasing access for underserved Americans.
11

12 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution on the hardships foreign-
13 born family physicians can face. Supporters of the resolution spoke to the need to offer support for
14 family physicians practicing in the U.S. on immigrant and non-immigrant visas. The reference
15 committee discussed the phrasing of the first resolved clause for clarification and agreed to
16 recommend a substitute resolution.
17

18 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
19 **1003, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1003:**

20
21 **RESOLVED That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation or**
22 **executive orders that create barriers for immigrant and non-immigrant physicians**
23 **with a work visa that practice in the U.S., and be it further**
24

25 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a policy**
26 **statement regarding the important role physicians on Visa waivers currently play in**
27 **alleviating the physician shortage and increasing access to care for underserved**
28 **Americans.**
29

30 **RESOLVED, That the AAFP use its social media platforms to highlight stories of its**
31 **immigrant and nonimmigrant family physicians on work Visas. ADOPTED AS AMENDED**
32

33 **ITEM NO. 4: RESOLUTION NO. 1004: REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO OFFICE-**
34 **BASED BUPRENORPHINE THERAPY FOR OPIATE DEPENDENCE**

35
36 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support chapters in working
37 with their state legislatures to eliminate preauthorization requirements for buprenorphine.
38

39 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution that prior authorization
40 delays of buprenorphine is an administrative burden that can result in relapse and harm for
41 patients, especially those who are pregnant. The reference committee believed that the resolution
42 would benefit from a revision clarifying that the buprenorphine was to be used for treatment of
43 opioid use disorder.
44

45 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
46 **1004, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1004**

47
48 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support chapters in**
49 **working with their state legislatures to eliminate preauthorization requirements for**
50 **buprenorphine when used for treatment of opioid use disorder.**
51

1 **ITEM NO. 5: RESOLUTION NO. 1005: ELIMINATING BARRIERS FOR GENDER MARKER**
2 **CHANGE ON LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

3
4 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the elimination of
5 barriers for changing gender markers on legal documentation, and be it further

6
7 RESOLVED, that the American Academy of Family Physicians assist chapters in working
8 with state legislators to draft state legislation to eliminate barriers to gender marker change.

9
10 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution which noted that being
11 forced to present identification documents which do not list the correct gender identity creates
12 barriers to health equity as well as stress for patients. Speakers suggested that this resolution was
13 an appropriate extension of current AAFP policy. The reference committee agreed to adopt the
14 resolution.

15
16 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1005 be**
17 **adopted.**

1 **ITEM NO. 6: RESOLUTION NO. 1006: OPPOSITION TO DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE**

2
3 ~~RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians stand in opposition to the~~
4 ~~present route of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and be it further~~

5
6 ~~RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors investigate options to make its opposition to the~~
7 ~~Dakota Access Pipeline known to the present Administration and Energy Transfer Partners,~~
8 ~~the company building the pipeline.~~

9
10 ~~RESOLVED, That the AAFP Board of Directors send a letter detailing the public health and~~
11 ~~social justice concerns of the proposed route of the Dakota Access Pipelines proposed~~
12 ~~route under Lake Oahe to the present Administration and Energy Transfer Partners, the~~
13 ~~company building the pipeline. ADOPTED AS AMENDED~~

14
15 The reference committee heard testimony in support for the resolution which addressed the public
16 health issues raised by the prospect of oil leaks as well as environmental racism. The reference
17 committee had a lengthy discussion recognizing the significance to those affected. Members of the
18 reference committee expressed concerns about the value of the AAFP taking on this issue at this
19 time and the ramifications of the proposed actions.

20
21 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1006 not**
22 **be adopted.**

23
24 **ITEM NO. 7: RESOLUTION NO. 1007: UPDATE AND EXPANSION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
25 **SURVIVORS RIGHTS TO PROTECTION**

26
27 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians update and expand the
28 sexual assault survivors' rights to protection, to include wording to oppose the use of
29 incarceration to mandate sexual assault victims to testify.

30
31 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution which described the
32 treatment of sexual assault victims threatened with incarceration if they do not testify. The
33 reference committee agreed that this resolution represented an important addition to current AAFP
34 policy and agreed to clarify the second resolved clause by adding the word "policy."
35

36 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
37 **1007, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1007:**

38
39 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians update and expand**
40 **the sexual assault survivors' rights to protection policy to include wording to oppose**
41 **the use of incarceration to mandate sexual assault victims to testify.**

42
43 **ITEM NO. 8: RESOLUTION NO. 1008: TRANSPARENCY FOR QUALIFYING EMPLOYMENT**
44 **WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM**

45
46 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians use its legislative advocacy
47 and lobbying efforts to encourage transparency by the Public Service Loan Forgiveness
48 program about qualifying employment for its program, and be it further

49
50 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians investigate qualifying
51 employment within the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, and be it further
52

1 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians provide guidance to its
2 members about qualifying employment for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
3

4 The reference committee heard testimony from several members in support of the resolution. The
5 speakers expressed concerns about changes being made by the U.S. Department of Education to
6 the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program which effectively excludes certain employment from
7 qualifying for the loan forgiveness. One of the authors of the resolution agreed with reference
8 committee members who suggested that the second and third resolved clauses are not necessary
9 to accomplish the aims of the resolution.
10

11 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
12 **1008, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1008:**
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14 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians use its legislative**
15 **advocacy and lobbying efforts to encourage transparency by the Public Service Loan**
16 **Forgiveness program about qualifying employment for its program.**
17

18 **ITEM NO. 9: RESOLUTION NO. 1009: REAFFIRM CURRENT AAFP POLICY TO OPPOSE**
19 **LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON CENTERS RECEIVING TITLE X AND MEDICAID FUNDING**
20

21 RESOLVED, That the AAFP continue to lobby U.S. Congress to oppose legislation that
22 diminishes funding and/or access to preventive and reproductive health services for women
23 and men, and re-engage fully in the support for these vital services, and be it further
24

25 RESOLVED, That as a matter of policy the American Academy of Family Physicians
26 reiterate the necessity of maintaining Medicaid and Title X funding of all providers of clinics
27 who meet usual standards of eligibility, and be it further
28

29 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians send an updated letter to
30 the appropriate members of the U.S. Congress reiterating our continued firm and
31 unwavering support for funding of the family planning program as authorized by Title X of
32 the Public Health Service Act of 2017 and opposing the addition of new restrictions.
33

34 The reference committee heard testimony from several members in support of the resolution. The
35 speakers recognized that this resolution calls on the AAFP to reiterate our current policy in the face
36 of threats from the current Administration. The reference committee members were informed that
37 the AAFP sent a communication to the Congress in support of Title X funding in March, 2017.
38

39 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1009 be**
40 **adopted.**
41

42 **ITEM NO. 10: RESOLUTION NO. 1010: SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RYAN WHITE**
43 **CARE ACT**
44

45 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians publicly support Ryan
46 White Care Act funding, when proposed for reauthorization for the care of individuals and
47 communities affected by HIV and the continuation of programs related to HIV prevention
48 and treatment.
49

50 The reference committee heard testimony in support of this resolution from one member who
51 stated that this funding is essential for some practices and patients. The reference committee
52 agreed to recommend that the resolution be adopted.

1
2 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1010 be**
3 **adopted.**
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1 **ITEM NO. 11: RESOLUTION NO. 1011: SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY**

2
3 ~~RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians recognize the right of tribal~~
4 ~~sovereignty on tribal land, and be it further~~

5
6 ~~RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a policy in support of~~
7 ~~tribal rights to prosecute sexual assault cases against non-Native defendants in tribal~~
8 ~~courts.~~

9
10 ~~RESOLVED, That the AAFP release a Smartbrief **and/or all other possible avenues**~~
11 ~~regarding the high incidence of sexual assault against Native women and the lack of legal~~
12 ~~recourse against the perpetrators and the subsequent effects of this helplessness on the~~
13 ~~emotional and mental health of the victims. **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**~~

14
15 The reference committee heard testimony from several members in support of the resolution. The
16 speakers described the barriers to justice for Native American victims of sexual assault because
17 crimes perpetrated by non-Native Americans occurring on tribal land cannot be investigated by
18 tribal police or prosecuted by tribal authorities. The reference committee recognized that the
19 prevalence of sexual assault and the inability to charge non-Native Americans in the tribal justice
20 system is a significant problem, but they agreed that recognizing the right of tribal sovereignty is
21 beyond AAFP's scope.

22
23 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1011 not**
24 **be adopted.**

25
26 **ITEM NO. 12: RESOLUTION NO. 1012: MATERNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE**
27 **ARE ESSENTIAL BENEFITS**

28
29 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation that
30 allows insurers to opt out of maternity and reproductive health coverage, and be it further

31
32 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians issue a formal statement
33 affirming that maternity and reproductive health services are essential to general health
34 care and should be covered under all insurance plans.

35
36 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution on the value of reproductive
37 health coverage. The reference committee agreed to recommend that the resolution be adopted.

38
39 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1012 be**
40 **adopted.**

41
42 **ITEM NO. 13: RESOLUTION NO. 1013: SUPPORT TELEMEDICINE MEDICATION ABORTION**

43
44 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation that
45 singles out medication abortion as a service to ban from telemedicine care.

46
47 The reference committee heard testimony on both sides of this resolution. Supporters of the
48 resolution cited research findings that medication abortion using telemedicine was safe and
49 effective. Opponents expressed concerns about incomplete abortions or other harms to patients.
50 The reference committee agreed to recommend that the resolution be adopted because physicians
51 should decide what works for telemedicine without governmental intervention to stigmatize or
52 exclude specific interventions.

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RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1013 be adopted.

ITEM NO. 14: RESOLUTION NO. 1014: OPPOSE THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER TO WITHHOLD FEDERAL FUNDING TO SANCTUARY CITIES

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to President Trump voicing its opposition to Executive Order 13768 regarding sanctuary cities, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians use its legislative advocacy and lobbying efforts to oppose congressional action that would withhold federal funding to sanctuary cities.

The reference committee heard testimony that was supportive of the resolution. Speakers noted that fewer patients are seeking care due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence at care centers. The reference committee agreed with the first resolved clause, but found that the second resolved clause would be costly to the AAFP and outside of its strategic priorities.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 1014, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 1014:

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to President Trump voicing its opposition to Executive Order 13768 regarding sanctuary cities.

1 **ITEM NO. 15: RESOLUTION NO. 1015: ADOPTION EQUALITY**

2
3 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the removal of
4 legislative and logistical barriers to adoption by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
5 (LGBT).
6

7 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution. One member expressed
8 frustration that although the AAFP policy in support of LGBT adoption was established in 2002, it
9 was difficult to find on the AAFP policy website. The reference committee agreed with the
10 resolution but agreed to add the term “people” at the end of the resolved clause.
11

12 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No.**
13 **1015, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution 1015:**

14
15 **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the removal**
16 **of legislative and logistical barriers to adoption by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and**
17 **Transgender (LGBT) ~~people families and individuals.~~ ADOPTED AS AMENDED**
18

19 **ITEM NO. 16: RESOLUTION NO. 1016: SUPPORT HEALTH CARE FOR UNDOCUMENTED**
20 **PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

21
22 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a policy statement
23 supporting the provision of health care for all patients regardless of immigration status, and
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians should create a physician
26 tool kit to help physicians address knowledge gaps surrounding immigrant health care,
27 including but not limited to the legal rights of undocumented patients as well as clinical
28 medical care, and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a policy statement
30 opposing required collection or reporting on immigration status data, and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians lobby for legislation that
32 would ensure continued access to health care among undocumented immigrants and their
33 families and oppose any legislation that would decrease access to care.

34 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution. One speaker noted that
35 3.5% of the U.S. population is undocumented, and others expressed concerns that undocumented
36 women were increasingly unwilling to undergo prenatal care over fears of arrest and deportation.
37 The reference committee agreed to recommend that the resolution be adopted.
38

39 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 1016 be**
40 **adopted.**

41
42 **I wish to thank those who appeared before the reference committee to give testimony and**
43 **the reference committee members for their invaluable assistance. I also wish to commend**
44 **the AAFP staff for their help in the preparation of this report.**

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47 Respectfully Submitted,

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Melissa Hemphill, MD, FAAFP – CHAIR
- 6
- 7 Rebekah Ayadole, MD – IMG
- 8 Margot Savoy, MD, MPH, CPE, FAAFP – Minority
- 9 Tiffany Leonard, MD – Women
- 10 Bashar Yalldo, MD – New Physicians
- 11 Edward Braun, MD, FAAFP – LGBT
- 12 Allison Bacon, MD (Observer)