



January 16, 2017

Dear AAFP Resident and Medical Student Members:

As you well know, the 115th U.S. Congress has been sworn in and is already at work; the peaceful transition of power from one Administration to another will occur later this week. To say a “change is in the air” would be an understatement! And while we know change can be exciting, and challenging, and sometimes even difficult—it is also constant.

I am writing to you today to talk about another constant: the strong commitment of the AAFP to you—our valued members—and to the patients you serve (or soon will serve). As we prepare for the debates, and votes, and media coverage surrounding a host of issues that will impact health care in our country, it’s important that all members understand the AAFP’s priorities in representing each of you.

In the coming days, weeks and months, we will be advocating for the following key objectives:

- maintaining and expanding affordable health insurance coverage for all;
- payment reform that supports and sustains family medicine and primary care as foundational to a better health care system;
- attention to the Primary Care Workforce needs of our country and reform to its funding;
- prevention and wellness, as well as special attention to the social determinants of health and health equity; and
- reducing the administrative and regulatory burden experienced by family physicians in their practices.

We are beginning a new chapter of what surely will be a long and sustained debate over how we, as a nation, can best provide affordable, high-quality health care to all Americans. The decisions that are made now will undoubtedly shape the way you practice in the years ahead, and we won’t ignore this opportunity to make real improvements for you and your future patients. Be assured that the AAFP is working daily to promote and protect the best interests of our patients and our specialty. But we need your help. I encourage you to share the important perspective you have as part of the future primary care workforce. Use our [Speak Out program](#) to communicate with your elected officials on important public policy issues, and use your story to help them understand the values of primary care. Thank you!

To learn more about health policy and the key objectives listed above, visit the [AAFP’s grassroots advocacy website](#).

Sincerely,

John Meigs, Jr., MD, FAAFP
AAFP President

www.aafp.org

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