



**AAFP Delegate to the
American Medical Association Resident and Fellow Section**

Resident

Sarah Costello, PGY-2
University of Iowa, Iowa City

Resident

Angelika Kwak, PGY-2
University of Chicago, Evanston

Purpose & Scope of Work

The Resident and Fellow Section (RFS) is a branch of the American Medical Association (AMA) specifically dedicated to giving a voice to residents and fellows and allows them to advocate for the issues that matter to medical trainees. The RFS is made up of an elected governing council, state delegates, and specialty interest delegates who meet bi-annually for an interim meeting in the fall and an annual meeting in the spring. At these meetings, resolutions for new policy are introduced, reviewed by a reference committee, debated, and voted on by the delegates. Resolutions adopted by the RFS can then be forwarded to the AMA House of Delegate (HOD) for consideration to become national public policy.

The role of the AAFP Delegate in the RFS is to represent family medicine by advocating for primary care issues. AAFP delegates work closely together to review proposed resolutions and related published AAFP policy. During RFS assembly meetings, delegates are given the responsibility of voting and testifying on resolutions in alignment with AAFP policy. Another key role of the resident delegates is to present the views of the RFS to the entirety of the AAFP delegation so that priority issues can be identified and represented in the HOD. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP resident delegates to the RFS also serves as a voting delegate to the AMA HOD alongside the AAFP delegation.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting November 2025

- AAFP resident delegates reviewed 17 reports and resolutions, 9 of which were extracted for discussion. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- AAFP resident delegates wrote and provided testimony on resolutions related to:
 - Support for Evaluation of Single-Payer and Unified Healthcare Financing Systems
- RFS assembly voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
 - Hardship for International Medical Graduates from Palestine
 - Clarifying the Medical Student Section's and Resident and Fellow Section's Abilities to Fill Temporary Vacancies in Accordance with the AMA Bylaws
 - Sustaining Ethical Leadership Through Continued Support of the AMA Journal of Ethics
- Other primary care-related resolutions for the RFS that were forwarded to the House of Delegates for Interim Meeting 2026 included:
 - Preserving Access to Care for Undocumented Individuals
 - Condemnation of Attacks on Healthcare Workers and Facilities in Gaza

- Fatigue Mitigation: Supporting Fully-Funded Transportation for Trainee Physicians After Extended or Overnight Shifts
- Ending AMA Investment in Weapons Manufacturers

Annual Meeting June 2026

- AAFP resident delegates reviewed 28 reports and resolutions, 9 of which were extracted for discussion and one was an emergency resolution. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- AAFP resident delegates wrote and provided testimony on resolutions related to:
 - Stronger Recognition and Promotion of Accommodations for Neurodivergent Learners
 - Advancing Physician Payment and Medicare and Medicaid Access for Street Medicine
 - Modernize the Medicare Primary Care Exception to Ensure Appropriate Reimbursement
 - Supporting a Common Legal Framework for Medical Capacity Holds
 - Promoting Safety Through Revision of Resident and Fellow Work Hour Limits
 - Motivational Interviewing Curriculum for Physicians to Address Vaccine Hesitancy
- RFS assembly voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
 - Protecting Resident Physicians with Pending Immigration Status and Ensuring Safe Participation in Professional Activities
 - FDA Regulation of Unapproved Synthetic Peptides
 - Immediate Action to Prevent Further Immigrant Deaths
 - Minimum Standards for Public Health Leaders
 - Bringing Physicians' Voices to the Implementation of AI Prescribers

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as an RFS Delegate

Angelika and Sarah are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent family medicine residents at the AMA Interim and Annual Meetings. During our term, we gained valuable insight into the policymaking and advocacy processes that shape the future of medicine.

We had the privilege of working alongside passionate students, residents, and physicians from across the country who are committed to improving the lives of patients and medical professionals. Through this experience, we strengthened our skills in advocacy, communication, collaboration, and consensus-building while learning to celebrate both large and small victories.

Serving in this role has been a rewarding part of our training, and we encourage anyone interested in primary care advocacy to consider applying.