

# AAFP AMA-RFS Delegate 2025 Annual Report

**AAFP Student Delegate to the  
American Medical Association Medical Student Section**

## Resident

Sarah Costello, PGY-1  
University of Iowa

## Resident

Urvi Pandit, PGY-3  
The Wright Center

## 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 2024*

- AAFP resident delegates reviewed 13 reports and resolutions, 5 of which were extracted for discussion. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- RFS delegates voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
  - Mass Deportation as a Public Health Issue
  - Renewing the Expansion of Premium Tax Credits
- Other primary care-related resolutions for the RFS that were forwarded to the House of Delegates for Annual Meeting 2025 included:
  - CHIP coverage of OTC Medications

### *Annual Meeting June 2025*

- AAFP resident delegates reviewed 14 reports and resolutions, 3 of which were extracted for discussion during RFS Annual Meeting 2025. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- RFS delegates voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
  - Preserving Accreditation Standards on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- AAFP authored resolutions adopted at A-25 HOD
  - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (emergency resolution)
  - CHIP coverage of OTC Medications
- RFS and AAFP supported resolutions adopted at A-25 HOD
  - Preservation of Medicaid
  - Support for Continuance of 1115 Waivers and Demonstration Projects
  - Preservation of J-1 Visa Processing for International Medical Graduate Physicians
  - Expediting H1-B Visa's
  - Preserving Accreditation Standards on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Primary care-related resolutions for the RFS that were forwarded to the House of Delegates for Interim Meeting 2025 included:
  - Reasonable Workplace Accommodations for Residents and Fellows During Pregnancy
  - Remediating the Harms of AMA's Role in the Flexner Report

## Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as an RFS Delegate

Sarah and Urvi were grateful for the chance to represent family medicine and residents at the AMA Interim and Annual meetings. We learned so much about the legislative process that works to ensure that the medical field continues to evolve and grow with an ever-changing world. We had the opportunity to work with, learn from and be inspired by fellow residents and family physicians across the country who are passionate about improving the lives of patients and medical professionals.

During our tenure, we learned how to effectively communicate and debate our ideas, compromise when met with opposition and find joy in the small wins. This experience will forever stay with us both, and we encourage anyone interested in primary care advocacy to apply for this position.

*Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit [aafp.org](http://aafp.org).*