



Commission on Federal and State Policy 2023 Annual Report

Student/Resident Representative to the Commission on Federal and State Policy

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Commission on Federal and State Policy (CFSP) conducts oversight of the federal and state-level advocacy work of AAFP staff in addition to reviewing all resolutions put forth from National Student and Resident Conference and Congress of Delegates (COD) that relate specific AAFP policies. The CFSP evaluates how to best implement these resolutions in line with the AAFP's overall policy goals. The Commission also completes ongoing reviews of relevant policies every five years to reaffirm or revise existing policy statements. Our role is to bring student and resident perspectives to these discussions to consider future generations' advocacy interests.

Activities & Achievements

During Winter Cluster, held in February 2023, CFSP considered resolutions from the most recent COD. All resolutions were evaluated in detail for their national and state-level impact on the practice of family medicine. The resolutions covered a variety of topics. Some directly related to the day-to-day practice of family medicine, such as permanent HIPAA flexibility for telemedicine and keeping pharmacy formulary databases up to date. Others covered policy issues like paid family leave, expanding mail-in voting, D.C. Statehood, and increasing access to fertility treatment. Resolutions in support of further study of methods of achieving Healthcare for All in conjunction with other physician groups were accepted for implementation. Additionally, resolutions supporting transgender athletes participation in sports teams consistent with their gender identity and against the criminalization abortion care were accepted.

Our Summer Cluster meeting was split between implementation of additional COD resolutions and reevaluation of AAFP policy statements that were up for 5-year review. We accepted for implementation policies enhancing patient confidentiality protections by limiting explanation of benefits for services received by a non-policy holder, authorizing a position paper on racial equity and reparations, and advocating for tax protections for independent practice physicians. We also renewed policy statements on Scope of Practice, culturally sensitive Interpretive Services, Medicaid Services, the National Health Service Corps, Political Action, Legislative Activities, and prescribing practices among others.

During both meetings we also reviewed governmental affairs successes in their year-round work in advocating for AAFP goals. It was exciting and informative to be on the front-line designing advocacy efforts and reviewing advocacy successes/challenges. The governmental affairs staff work constantly behind the scenes to shape and sponsor legislation that impacts the practice of family medicine across the country. Many CFSP members also met for the Family Medicine Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC in May 2023 to advocate firsthand with our senators and representatives for permanency of THC-GME support, prior authorization transparency, and improved Medicare reimbursement for primary care.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on CFSP

Tim: This past year as a commission member allowed me a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the AAFP and a wonderful introduction to a cohort of our generation of leaders in the AAFP. Our voice is valued immensely as the future of the AAFP, and this experience helped me realize the importance of member engagement on all levels. I have learned about AAFP policy-making and implementation, in particular what happens to resolutions after national conference or COD. I have learned advocacy approaches that I will bring to my state chapter and had the opportunity to share ideas that will benefit other states. This year helped me learn much more about advocacy and creating effective change as well as realize the influence I can have representing residents on a national level. I recommend anyone interested in leadership, personal/professional development, further engagement, or just loads of fun to apply for a commission position this year!

Vineet: It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as a student member on the CFSP over the past few months. The membership of the Commission is drawn from physicians and trainees at all career stages and from across the nation. It was inspiring to meet with leaders in family medicine from around the country. Hearing about the practice of family medicine today compared with the past is sobering—our healthcare system clearly isn't working for patients or providers. Incremental steps undoubtedly have the potential to improve the practice and provision of family medicine, however, it's heartening to see leaders across the AAFP—including the CFSP—push for the structural changes required to reimagine a healthcare system that truly promotes health and well-being. Young leaders in this space are a must to push this conversation forward, and to that end, I strongly encourage all medical students to consider serving in a leadership role with the AAFP. Working with the Commission has been eye-opening both in seeing how organized medicine responds to changes in society and policy but also great for my development as a physician, conceptualizing how I can stay involved in the future and channel my future patients' stories into durable action. Finally, the AAFP Staff deserve our thanks in their alacrity and effectiveness in pushing both sides of the aisle to improve access to primary care and the practice of family medicine for future generations of doctors.

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.