

2018 AAFP State Legislative Conference State Roundtable New Mexico

The New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians (NMAFP) Legislative Affairs Committee meets quarterly and at every NMAFP sponsored CME event. At these meetings the chair of the committee, Dr. Richard F. Madden, and the NMAFP lobbyist, Steve Lucero, lead discussions and foster leadership development among our chapter members in order to build capacity to engage in healthcare policy conversations at the legislative level. At these meetings, members refine the current priorities of our chapter and brainstorm ways to lay the ground work for legislative action and influence. Importantly at our academy's "Doc of the Day" program at the New Mexico Legislature New Mexico's family physicians are uniquely positioned to help educate legislators on healthcare policy and well as the value of Family Medicine whether that be through providing testimony at legislative committee meetings or by sharing with them one-on-one when they ask our opinion on issues.

This past year the legislative affairs committee has been intentional about including the NMAFP board members in shaping the committee's priorities and focus. The top priorities identified this year include improving the prior authorization process (focusing on making it more evidence based in order to limit delays in care and eliminate unnecessary prior authorizations), pharmaceutical costs and options for cost containment (including co-pay costs), and funding for early childhood education as well as public safety-focused policy that addresses gun violence. Additional important topics that effect family physicians, our patients, our communities and our nation (e.g. surprise billing, access to opiate addiction therapy, tax reform for optimization of state revenue sources, the threat of under-funding of the state's medical malpractice act, and scope of practice issues) have also been identified as current topics in our state and this committee and our lobbyist will continue to advocate and actively engage with the legislative process to have impacts on these critical topics. This committee will also be working this next year to better engage with our entire membership to elicit more of their input in directing the committee's focus. We are also discussing the need to better engage with legislative candidates and consider writing letters of endorsement when appropriate.