



2016 Election Cycle FamMedPAC Contribution Criteria

Background

FamMedPAC serves a vital role in advancing AAFP's legislative agenda and in broadening AAFP's visibility with Congress. As contributions to the PAC increase, FamMedPAC will become involved in more congressional races and expanded AAFP's influence. As our fundraising strategy takes shape, with its goal of raising \$1 million for FamMedPAC by the end of the 2016 election cycle, FamMedPAC is poised to become one of the largest medical specialty PACs in the country.

FamMedPAC Contribution Criteria

Support of Legislative Priorities

Each year, the AAFP Commission on Legislation and Government Affairs develops a legislative and regulatory work plan that focuses on issues critical to AAFP members. Support of these priorities is a key factor in determining eligibility for a FamMedPAC contribution. The legislative and regulatory agenda for 2016 includes:

- Healthcare coverage for all;
- Health Information Technology;
- Medicaid reform;
- Medical liability reform;
- Medicare physician payment reform;
- Title VII funding;
- Graduate Medical Education Reform

Support of Regulatory Priorities

Senators and Representatives who have been or are being helpful in advancing AAFP's regulatory agenda, by intervening directly with regulatory agencies on behalf of AAFP or by signing letters asking an agency to act on one of AAFP's regulatory priorities, are eligible for FamMedPAC contributions even if they have not fully supported AAFP's legislative priorities. Some Members may be more helpful on the regulatory front, and this should be taken into consideration when evaluating those candidates for FamMedPAC contributions.

Evaluation Categories

The 2016 election cycle evaluation criteria focus on a candidate's support of AAFP's key legislative and regulatory initiatives, committee assignment, leadership position, relationships with AAFP members, whether or not the candidate is a healthcare professional, whether or not the candidate is a current member of AAFP, and the likelihood of a candidate's election as the basis for evaluating possible FamMedPAC contributions. The contribution levels assigned to each category reflect both the outlook for funds that may be available to FamMedPAC and the necessity of providing a certain level of support to candidates/Senators/Representatives in order to achieve the goal of advancing AAFP's agenda. As we

look at specific candidates for FamMedPAC, we will find that many of them will fall under several of these headings.

Although a particular candidate may be eligible for a certain contribution amount, it is important to remember that the candidate will not necessarily receive the full amount for which he or she is eligible. A significant change in the legislative/political climate may dictate that we reach as many candidates as possible (rather than a targeted focus on candidates on a particular committee). Ongoing assessments will enable us to determine which overall approach is most compatible with AAFP's legislative and regulatory agenda.

“Friendly Incumbent” Policy

FamMedPAC will follow the “friendly incumbent” policy for contributions. This policy means that FamMedPAC will not contribute campaign funds to a candidate running against an incumbent determined to be friendly, or supportive, to AAFP.

In the event a current member of AAFP is running for office against a friendly incumbent, the FamMedPAC Board of Directors will review those races on a case-by-case basis and determine whether or not FamMedPAC will support that challenger.

In an “open seat” situation, where neither candidate is an incumbent, each candidate will be asked to fill out a Candidate Questionnaire. This will enable FamMedPAC to determine if the candidates' positions on important healthcare issues are consistent with AAFP policy. The Questionnaire will also help FamMedPAC determine the level of possible support.

In both situations described above, input from the state chapters and local AAFP members will be sought.

Contribution Strategy

FamMedPAC will direct its contributions to those candidates (primarily sitting Senators and Representatives) who serve on key committees and subcommittees, who hold positions of leadership, or who have supported AAFP's key legislative priorities through bill cosponsorship or votes in favor of AAFP-supported legislation. Priority should be given to supporting events for those candidates who hold healthcare-specific meetings and fundraisers. These events allow the candidates to focus solely on healthcare issues and to hear AAFP's specific concerns and priorities in the current Congress.

FamMedPAC will also target contributions to Senators and Representatives who represent the states and congressional districts of AAFP Board of Directors, members of the FamMedPAC Board of Directors, and members of the Commission of Governmental Advocacy. This strategy will enhance the contacts between these AAFP leaders and their federal legislators.

Committee Assignment

FamMedPAC contributions will be directed to those candidates who serve on committees with jurisdiction over healthcare issues. The committees can be designated as either a “key” committee (a committee with primary jurisdiction over healthcare issues), or a “secondary” committee (a committee with jurisdiction over some aspects of healthcare legislation). Candidates serving on Key committees would be eligible for larger contributions.

Key committees in the House are:

- Ways and Means
- Energy and Commerce
- Appropriations

Secondary committees in the House are:

- Budget
- Judiciary
- Rules

Key committees in the Senate are:

- Finance
- Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)
- Appropriations

Secondary Senate committees are

- Budget
- Commerce, Science and Transportation
- Judiciary

Contribution amounts are based on which committee a Member serves, his or her leadership position on the committee, and whether or not the Member also serves on the healthcare subcommittee of the committee.

Lobbying Targets/Relationship to AAFP

Occasionally, FamMedPAC will need to consider making contributions to those candidates (again, primarily sitting Senators and Representatives) AAFP needs to gain access to in order to promote our legislative and regulatory agenda. These will generally be for members of the leadership or key committees and are designed to “get a foot in the door” and to make them aware of AAFP’s positions on the issues. In those cases, the candidate may not have been a supporter on all AAFP issues but is recommended for a contribution because there is reason to believe he/she may nonetheless be helpful to AAFP on a specific issue in the future.

The relationship a candidate, Senator or Representative has with AAFP leadership, staff and other AAFP members is another factor to consider when evaluating contribution requests. If a candidate has a good relationship with someone associated with AAFP, he or she is more likely to take the time to listen to AAFP’s position on a particular issue. Although FamMedPAC will want to direct most contributions to candidates, Senators, and Representatives who have shown concrete support for AAFP’s priorities, a special relationship with AAFP can be an important factor in considering a contribution request.

In addition, those Senators and Representatives who do not serve on a key or secondary committee but who support AAFP’s legislative agenda, through co-sponsoring legislation, participating in press conferences, hosting meetings for AAFP members, etc., should also be eligible for FamMedPAC contributions.

U.S. Senate

FamMedPAC will make contributions only to those Senators up for reelection in 2016, to Senate Leadership, and to Chairmen and Ranking Members of Key and Secondary Committees. The FamMedPAC Board will consider out-of cycle contributions to non-Leadership and non-Committee Chairs/Ranking Members on a case-by-case basis.

Difficulty of Race

As we move through the election cycle, the difficulty of a candidate’s or legislator’s election or re-election campaign will become an important factor in determining if FamMedPAC directs a contribution to that campaign. FamMedPAC can have a greater impact by making contributions to those candidates

who face a difficult, but winnable, election. FamMedPAC will focus its resources on those races where contributions can make a difference in the race. More funds will be directed to a particular race based on its competitiveness.

The Cook Political Report classifies races as “Toss-up,” “Lean,” “Likely” or “Solid” based on the projected difficulty of the race. Using these rankings, FamMedPAC can increase its contribution level to those candidates facing difficult races.

Campaign Committees

FamMedPAC will make contributions to the House and Senate campaign committees of both national political parties. The House committees are the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). The Senate committees are the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC). These committees make contributions only to members of their own party running for election to the specific chamber. The committees target particularly vulnerable incumbents and promising challengers. Committees can now only accept and spend what are known as “hard-dollar” contributions, which are limited contributions from individuals and PACs. Previously, Committees could accept “soft money” contributions, which are unlimited contributions from wealthy individuals and corporations. Because of these changes, hard dollar contributions (which include contributions from FamMedPAC) to the campaign committees have taken on added significance. By making these contributions, AAFP representatives will be able to attend special briefings, roundtables and events throughout the year held specifically for donors to the campaign committees. These events allow for greater access to Congressional leaders, provide early contacts with challengers, and will help establish AAFP as an important player on the political scene.

Leadership PACs

Senators and Representatives, particularly those in the leadership or seeking to enter the leadership, often set up their own PACs in order to raise funds to contribute to races other than their own. Typically, members who set up leadership PACs are in safe seats and do not need to spend large amounts of money on their own re-election. FamMedPAC will make contributions to leadership PACs as needed throughout the cycle. FamMedPAC will allow those Senators and Representatives who qualify for a contribution and who have leadership PACs to specify their preference as to where to make the contribution: to the leadership PAC or his or her own campaign. Contributions to a candidate’s leadership PAC will count as contributions to the candidate and must fall into the budgeted contribution total for that candidate. As with all contributions, any contribution that exceeds a candidate’s budgeted amount must be approved by the FamMedPAC Board.

Multi-Member Committees

Members who share a particular ideology sometimes form PAC’s in order to support the election and reelection of others who share their views. FamMedPAC will support these PACs if the members of the PAC are supportive of AAFP’s issues. Examples of these PACs include the Blue Dogs (moderate, fiscally conservative, Democrats) and the Main Street Partnership (moderate Republicans).

Post-Election/Debt Retirement

It is standard practice for Senators and Representatives to ask for contributions following a general election to help retire their debts from the just completed campaign. Debt retirement offers AAFP another opportunity to establish relationships with Senators and Representatives to whose campaigns FamMedPAC did not contribute to in the general election, to forge relationships with newly elected Senators and Representatives, and to maintain strong relationships with Senators and Representatives who have always been supportive of AAFP’s legislative agenda. FamMedPAC has a policy of allowing

contributions for debt retirement. These contributions only go to victorious candidates, do not count towards a Senator's or Representative's total FamMedPAC eligibility for the upcoming election cycle, and will not exceed the contribution level the candidate was eligible for under FamMedPAC criteria in the just completed election cycle, unless the FamMedPAC Board approves exceeding the prior election cycle contribution limit.

FamMedPAC Board, AAFP Board, and CGA involvement

Members of the AAFP Board of Directors, the FamMedPAC Board of Directors, and the members of the Council on Governmental Advocacy will be encouraged to attend at least one fundraiser or other event for their Representative and Senators in the next year in order to enhance contacts between these AAFP leaders and their federal legislators. FamMedPAC will make a contribution to the federal representatives of Board and CGA members to allow the members to attend the event. A minimum amount will be contributed to each Board and CGA member's Representative and Senators, even if that Representative or Senator is not a strong supporter of AAFP's legislative priorities. This minimum contribution is simply designed to foster improved contacts between Board members and their federal legislators.

Healthcare Professional/AAFP Member

As a PAC affiliated with a medical specialty society, FamMedPAC should encourage healthcare professionals, particularly family physicians, to run for federal office. All races involving healthcare professionals will be evaluated to see if the candidate has a realistic chance of winning and all non-incumbent candidates will be required to complete a Candidate Questionnaire prior to being considered for a contribution.

Budget

The FamMedPAC Board set a fundraising goal of \$1 million for the 2016 election cycle.

If its full fundraising potential is realized, FamMedPAC can have a significant impact on the 2016 election. FamMedPAC can make maximum contributions to vulnerable friendly candidates, establish new relationships with key Senators and Representatives, contribute to the national campaign committees, and make contributions in important open seat and viable challenger races. All of these activities will increase AAFP's visibility and help support the Academy's legislative priorities.