

- **Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)**, a new member of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

7. SPEAK OUT TO KEEP TOBACCO REGULATIONS UNDER THE FDA

On Monday, June 13, the AAFP learned that two House provisions that would effectively remove the FDA's authority over e-cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products might be added to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill later in the week. In addition to a sign-on [letter](#) with 53 other groups opposing the riders, AAFP Key Contacts for targeted Senate Appropriators have been asked to contact their Senators to educate them on the dangers of unregulated tobacco products. You can participate in the Speak Out [here](#), and look for the social media campaign in the coming days.

8. FAMILY MEDICINE COMMENTS ON GME RURAL TRAINING TRACKS

In a [letter](#) sent Thursday, June 16 to CMS, the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM) responded to the 2017 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) proposed rule. The comments focused on the sections of the proposed rule regarding Graduate Medical Education (GME). The family medicine organizations stated that the primary health needs of rural America are not being met and that the production of primary care physicians, especially family physicians, is a key area where CMS can and should do more to remove barriers to increased production. The organizations called on CMS to provide special consideration for underserved rural areas under statutory authority given to CMS for that specific purpose and to construct regulations that enhance institutions' ability to produce family physicians.

9. TAX ON SUGARY DRINKS IN PHILADELPHIA COULD RAISE \$91 MILLION A YEAR

On June 16, Philadelphia became the first major US city to pass a tax on sugary drinks. The tax of 1.5 cents an ounce will apply to all sugary or artificially sweetened drinks sold by distributors in the city. It is expected to increase prices to \$2.16 for a 12-pack, and 30 cents for a 20 ounce-drink. The city pursued the tax on the soft drink industry as a revenue source expected to raise \$91 million a year. If the tax is passed on to consumers, the increase is expected to significantly decrease the sales of sweetened drinks.

10. NEW YORK REACHES AGREEMENT ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

On June 14, Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) and New York State lawmakers announced a final agreement on new legislation to combat heroin and prescription opioid abuse. The series of bills ([AB 10725](#), [AB 10726](#), [AB 10727](#)) would mandate insurance coverage for overdose medication and eliminate pre-authorization requirements for opioid addiction treatment. The measure also increases emergency treatment options, requires hospitals to provide follow-up treatment upon discharge, and reduces prescription limits for addictive opioids from 30 to seven days. In addition, the state budget approved on April 1 earmarked \$189 million to combat heroin and opioid addiction. The legislature is expected to pass the measure and the Governor will sign it.

11. REGULATORY BRIEF

- On June 13, the CMS Acting Administrator provided [remarks](#) to the American Medical Association regarding the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.
- On June 15, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) released its [June 2016 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System](#). [Chapter 2](#) of this report pertains to Medicare payment to clinicians.
- On June 16 CMS published a [report](#) discussing the integration of Medicare and Medicaid services and how alignment could help improve health outcomes for those in both.
- CMS will host the following free educational call, [registration](#) is required:
 - Quality Measures and the IMPACT Act Call on July 7 at 1:30 pm ET.
 - SNF Quality Reporting Program Call on July 12 at 1:30 pm ET.