

## 7. FAMILY PHYSICIANS NOMINATED TO AHRQ COUNCIL

In a letter sent to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on May 26, the AAFP nominated John W. Beasley, MD, FAAFP; Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA, FAAFP; Michael F. Dulin, MD, PhD; Jennifer Frost, MD, FAAFP; Winston Liaw, MD, MPH; Kenneth Lin, MD, MPH, FAAFP; and Lars Petterson, MD to the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Council advises HHS and AHRQ on matters related to AHRQ's mission which is "to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used."

## 8. AAFP SENDS COMMENTS TO SAMHSA ON PATIENT CAPS

In a May 26 [letter](#), the AAFP responded to a proposed rule titled "Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders" which was published by SAMHSA. The AAFP concurred with SAMHSA's interest in stimulating broader availability of high-quality medication-assisted therapy (MAT) and supported amending the highest cap on the treatment of addiction care with buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride to raise the limit to 200 patients from the current cap of 100.

## 9. STATE LEGISLATIVE BILLS OF INTEREST

- **Direct Primary Care**—Last week, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe (D) vetoed [HB 685](#), which would have excluded direct primary care agreements from health insurance laws and regulations. The Governor suggested that this concept needs further study stating that, "a direct primary care agreement is merely a stop-gap measure in a time when bolder steps are needed."
- **Medicaid Expansion**—Governor McAuliffe (D) also line-item vetoed language in the [budget](#) that would prevent him from expanding Medicaid without legislative approval. The Governor's spokesman said he is not planning to expand Medicaid unilaterally, but the administration continues to assess opportunities to "bring this money home."
- **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**—The [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#) has been enacted in 16 states—AL, AZ, IA, ID, IL, KS, MN, MS, MT, NH, NV, SD, UT, WI, WV and WY. This measure has been introduced in 10 other states—AK, CO, MD, MI, NE, OK, PA, RI, VT and WA.
- **Medicaid Budget**—Kansas Governor Sam Brownback (R) approved \$97 million in [budget cuts](#), \$56 million of which will come from Medicaid. Combined with the loss of federal matching funds, the state's Medicaid program will take a \$120 million hit. Health care providers who serve Medicaid patients will see their reimbursement rates drop by 4% in July, with the exception of home-based services for disabled Kansans and 95 critical-access hospitals in rural Kansas.
- **Women's Health Issues**—Last Friday, May 20; Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin (R) vetoed [SB 1552](#), a bill that would have made performing abortions a felony. Under the bill, doctors who perform an abortion could face up to three years in prison and lose their medical license. The only exception being is if it was medically necessary to preserve the life of the mother. In Governor Fallin's veto statement, she explained that, "while I consistently have and continue to support a re-examination of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, this legislation cannot accomplish the re-examination... The vague and ambiguous expansion of felony criminal liability that fails to define a critical element of the crime places this legislation squarely in the constitutional analysis of *criminal* liability."

## 10. REGULATORY BRIEF

- On May 24 CMS [released](#) the first ever Public Use File (PUF) for the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), calendar year 2013. The MCBS PUF contains standard