



Definition of Member Constituency

As approved by the AAFP Board of Directors, April 2015

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Member constituencies include AAFP members from groups that are perceived to be underrepresented in leadership at the national and chapter levels and encounter challenges entering leadership through traditional pathways. They may also be groups whose issues or concerns are not being adequately heard in the Congress of Delegates. Member constituencies approved by the Board of Directors based upon underrepresentation in leadership will be monitored annually by the Commission on Membership and Member Services to determine whether equal representation has been achieved through increased participation in leadership at both the national and chapter levels in the following positions: AAFP Congress of Delegates, AAFP Board of Directors, AAFP commissions, and elected chapter board officer positions to include president, president-elect, board chair or immediate past president, and vice president, if those positions exist. Any member constituency that achieves proportionate representation in these positions of leadership in comparison to AAFP Active members as measured on December 31 for three consecutive years will be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine if the member constituency should continue to exist and be represented at the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL). The review process should include:

- Documentation of achieved proportionate representation within leadership as previously defined
- Discussion among the constituency members at NCCL regarding the issue of equal representation with a report from the elected constituency leaders of their deliberations submitted to the AAFP Board of Directors with their recommendation for continuation or discontinuation of the constituency.
- Consideration of the broader cultural, socioeconomic, and social issues faced by the constituency within the general population (e.g. equal pay for women, social injustice in regards to persons of color, etc.)

If the status of a member constituency is revoked because equal representation has been achieved for three consecutive years, and proportionate representation within leadership declines again for that member constituency, the Board of Directors will determine whether the member constituency should be reinstated and regain representation within NCCL. For the purpose of NCCL, the current Board-approved member constituencies include women physicians, minority physicians, new physicians, international medical graduates, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender physicians (GLBT – those physicians who self-identify as GLBT or who are supportive of GLBT issues).

Should other groups of members believe themselves to be appropriate for inclusion in the NCCL, the pathway shall be one of three options with approval by the Board of Directors, as was the case with existing constituencies:

1. The group applies to become a Member Interest Group and, then, has the option to petition the Board of Directors to transition to a member constituency after a minimum of three years.
2. The group may submit a resolution through the existing governance structure (e.g. Congress of Delegates, NCCL) for consideration and approval of constituency status by the Board of Directors with representation at the NCCL with or without inclusion in the Member Constituency seats at the Congress of Delegates.
3. The Board of Directors may independently determine the need of an underrepresented group or a group whose concerns are not being adequately heard in the Congress of Delegates and approve constituency status and representation at the NCCL with or without inclusion in the Member Constituency seats at the Congress of Delegates. The Board of Directors will consider the group's representation within leadership and the Active membership of the AAFP.