

Delegate/Alternate Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates

Residents

Asna Tasleem

Wellspan Health/Good Samaritan Hospital Program

Mikita Patel

McLaren Oakland - Family Medicine Residency Program

Students

Garrett Kneese

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas

Class of 2022

Valentina Sedlacek

University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry, Rochester, NY

Class of 2023

Purpose & Scope of Work

We represent residents and students at the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), which is the academy's primary policy-making body. In addition to Congress duties, we facilitate a caucus process at COD for any residents or students who attend to ensure that their input is maximized. We also attend two in-person meetings per year in Kansas City to serve on the AAFP Commission on Education (COE) and two of its subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues (SRSI) and the Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum (SGC). Commission duties include intermittent virtual meetings and assignments which generally require no more than a few hours of work per month.

AAFP Congress of Delegates

The COD meets annually to discuss actions the AAFP should adopt to forward the quadruple aim and AAFP strategic objectives. Much like the U.S. Senate, it consists of 2 delegates from each state as well as 2 delegates from each U.S. territory, 6 delegates from National Congress of Constituency Leaders member constituencies (minorities, LGBTQI, women, international medical graduates, and new physicians), 2 resident delegates, and 2 student delegates. We have full voting and speaking rights at COD, where we work alongside family physician leaders from around the country to address the problems facing our patients and members. All resolutions approved at the COD immediately become AAFP policy as, according to AAFP bylaws, the control and administration of the AAFP is vested in the COD, subject to the statutory authority of the Board. There are six Reference Committees that review the resolutions for

each of the following areas: Advocacy I, Advocacy II, Cross-Topical Issues, Health of the Public and Science, Organization and Finance, and Practice Enhancement.

Highlights of the 2021 AAFP Congress of Delegates

Due to COVID restrictions, the 2021 Congress of Delegates was held virtually in September. Naturally, this led to many changes of the format and consequently there were fewer resolutions introduced as well. However, your student and resident representatives ensured robust discussion within our caucus on all resolutions proposed, and delivered testimony on several indicated below that we felt were either directly pertinent to trainee-interest, or that could be supported by trainee-input as the future of the family medicine specialty. The resident and student delegation advocated both for and against many resolutions and frequently provided testimony to ensure that student and resident voices were heard. Notable resolutions are listed below:

Resolution 501: Ensuring Equitable Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians lobby for the specific inclusion of collaboration with non-governmental community organizations and clinics to address equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine among communities of racial and ethnic minorities as well as undocumented individuals. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Advocacy I Rec: Adopt)

Resolution 402: End Discrimination of Transgender Athletes

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support equity and inclusion in community and school-based sports for gender-diverse individuals, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support legislation to support participation in community and school-based sports based on gender identity and opposes legislation that would preclude community- and school-based sports participation based on gender identity, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support gender identity protection in Title IX funding as it relates to in community- and school-based sports and athletics and will support legislation to assure that transgender athletes are not excluded from participation. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (HOPS Rec: Adopt)

Resolution 406: Development of National Bureau for Gun Safety

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the creation of a National Bureau for Gun Safety, to be run by experts in public health, medicine, engineering, communications and law enforcement working together in a transparent and nonpartisan organization, and be it further.

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the National Bureau for Gun Safety in developing a research agenda.

- **Outcome:** Referred to Board of Directors

Resolution 504: Better is Possible

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians revise the list of Health Care for All approaches to include the following three preferred models (single payer, public option with Bismarck

Approach, Primary Care Coverage for all) with a report back on progress to the 2022 Congress of Delegates, and be it further. RESOLVED, that the American Academy of Family Physicians collect information from member input and through commissions' expertise to generate a report to develop a long term plan to achieve Health Care for All, and be it further, RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians collaborate with primary care stakeholders, giving consideration to incorporating the American College of Physicians' Better is Possible research, with the goal of achieving Healthcare for All, and report back on any collaborative efforts to the 2022 Congress of Delegates. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Advocacy I Group Recommendation: Adopt)

Resolution 506: Health Care Funding Should Not Be Bound to Employment

Substitute: RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support and advocate that the funding of any future health care system be capable of supporting access to universal, high quality, equitable, and affordable health care without tethering health insurance to employment. Fiscal Impact: None

- **Outcome:** Substitute Adopted

Resolution 517: Examine the Health Impacts of Reparations

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a position paper about how reparations for Black Americans would affect racial inequities in health and in social determinants of health, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for legislation that calls for a governmental study of various forms of reparations for Black people. Fiscal Note: \$22,500

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Advocacy II Recommendation: Adopt)

Resolution 520: Eliminating Socioeconomic and Racial Disparities in Reproductive Healthcare

Substitute: RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to Congress advocating for the U.S. House and Senate to pass federal appropriations bills without the Hyde Amendment, to protect equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health services consistent with AAFP policies, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to the Biden-Harris Administration advocating for rescinding Executive Order 13535 (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Consistency with Longstanding Restrictions on the Use of Federal Funds for Abortion), which reaffirmed a commitment to the Hyde Amendment, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians collaborate with other relevant stakeholders to co-sign and co-author letters that oppose the Hyde Amendment, emphasizing its effects on health equity. Fiscal Note: None

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Advocacy II Rec – Substitute Adopt)

Resolution 521: Reproductive Health Care Accessible to Everyone

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to the Biden-Harris Administration advocating that Executive Order 13535 (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Consistency with Longstanding Restrictions on the Use of Federal Funds for Abortion) be rescinded, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate against legislation

that extends, reiterates, or incorporates the Hyde Amendment and related restrictions, including annual appropriations bills, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians will collaborate with other medical professional societies in the Group of Six to co-author letters that oppose the Hyde Amendment and to sign onto letters written by other Group of Six members that oppose the Hyde Amendment. Fiscal Impact: None

- **Outcome:** Not adopted.

Resolution 525: Paid Family Leave

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for and support national legislation in favor of gender-inclusive paid family leave. Fiscal Note: None

- **Outcome:** Extracted (Advocacy II Recommendation - Adopt)

Resolution 601: Pipeline Programs

Substitute: RESOLVED, That the the American Academy of Family Physicians explore existing pipeline programs, including current AAFP programs, that aim to recruit students from populations historically underrepresented in medicine to establish policy to guide support of these programs. Fiscal Note: \$85,000

- **Outcome:** Substitute Adopt (COE)

Resolution 602: Dept Relief for Primary Care Physicians

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians develop and submit model legislation to Congress and the president of the United States for federal medical student loan forgiveness for family physicians and other primary care physicians, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for any current legislation that addresses loan forgiveness for family physicians and other primary care physicians, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work collaboratively with other primary care physician organizations to develop common strategies to address loan forgiveness for family physicians and other primary care physicians. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Adopted, Commission on Federal & State Policy/ Commission on Education

Resolution 605: Beyond Roe Reproductive Health Care Accessible to Everyone

RESOLVED: That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate against restrictions to funding for reproductive services, including the Hyde Amendment, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians will work with other medical professional societies, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to oppose restrictions to funding for reproductive services, including the Hyde Amendment. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Cross-Topical Rec - Refer to the Board of Directors)

Resolution 606: Confidentiality Protection for Non-Policy Holders in Healthcare Billing

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate to prevent violations of confidentiality that occur when health insurance explanations of benefits or medical bills are sent to policy holders for confidential services provided to non-policy holders, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for a law to require insurers to send an explanation of benefits or medical bill for confidential services only via the patient's preferred route of communication when a written or verbal request is provided by the patient, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians will advocate for a policy that would exempt the requirement of an explanation of benefits when confidential services, including but not limited to, care related to family planning, HIV, sexually -transmitted infections, abortion care, mental health, substance use treatment, pregnancy and childbirth, are received by a non-policy holder. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Cross-Topical Rec: Substitute Adopt)

Resolution 207: Ensuring Inclusion of AAFP Members with Disabilities

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians survey its membership on the needs of our student, resident, and physician members living with disabilities to better inform its strategic work. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Adopted.

Resolution 209: Increase Congress of Delegates Accessibility via Remotes Participation

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians allow all members to participate remotely in the AAFP Congress of Delegates by providing written testimony on resolutions for submission to reference committees for consideration. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Adopted.

Resolution 210: Creation of a Robust Search Engine Strategy for Prior COD Resolutions and Board Reports

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians redesign the Congress of Delegates portion of the website, to include a search bar, so that searching for prior resolutions and Board Reports on specific topics are quick and efficient, and so that these searches can be done without needing to click into the link for each individual Congress of Delegates year. Fiscal Note: None.

- **Outcome:** Adopted.

Resolution 212: Support Anti-Racism Within Family Medicine

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians prioritize having representation through black and Indigenous people of color (BIPOC) voices on the board and in every committee, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) support the creation of an AAFP Anti-Racism Committee comprised of physicians, patients and other stakeholders to address racism in communities and on a national level. Fiscal Note: Unknown.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Org & Finance Rec: Substitute Adopt)

Resolution 302: Protect Physician Rights of Conscience - speaking against

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create a “Rights of Conscience Toolkit” for member use for advocacy within hospital systems, training programs and legislative entities that attempt to infringe upon a physician’s rights of conscience, and be it further. RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) at the Family Medicine Experience and other appropriate CME avenues educating on practical strategies for member use in protecting their rights of conscience. Fiscal Note: \$77,816.

- **Outcome:** Extracted* (Practice Enhancement Rec- Refer to the Board of Directors)

*: All extracted items are sent directly to the floor to be debated at the next COD.

Highlights of the 2021-22 AAFP Commission on Education

After a busy virtual winter cluster, it was a delight to finally get to meet in person in Kansas City for the Commission on Education (COE) Summer Cluster. Notable discussions included about the trends in co-sponsored subspecialty and continuing certifications and how they affect the future of family medicine; about the recruitment/ Match process changes for family medicine (second look, ERAS Supplemental Application, improving available information about programs for applicants); the future restructuring of AAFP Commissions and its impact and opportunities for the resident and student voice; review of reproductive decisions training policy; and subcommittee, liaison and Board reports.

Specific Reflections from Asna Tasleem, MD

It has been an honor to be a resident delegate for AAFP and to be provided with numerous avenues of involvement with a sole purpose to make the future of family medicine better.

In this role, I was given opportunities to speak up as a resident and to grow as a leader. I had always been involved with AAFP as a student but to experience being a delegate as a resident physician was an experience that enthused me with assurance that we certainly are at the forefront of family medicine. It instilled a permanent sense of commitment to AAFP as I witnessed leading positive change by many. I am committed to AAFP and encourage all of us to be committed and to lead the change we want to see in family medicine.

Specific Reflections from Mikita Patel, MD

This was my first time in a leadership role with the AAFP. Thank you for allowing me to represent you. During this role, I learned the importance of advocacy. If you don’t fight for what you believe in, someone else will for something you don’t. I also learned the process of how the resolutions we write during conference are moved along to implement change. Our voice is powerful and we can change if we work together. I had the wonderful opportunity of learning from amazing mentors across the different states and very organized AAFP staff members and inspirational fellow residents and students. This opportunity has helped me to grow as a leader and I hope it will help you too.

Specific Reflections from Garrett Kneese

Working with the Academy over the past few years as a student leader and coordinator has given me a unique perspective on student experiences as they navigate the family medicine pipeline. From the undergraduate educational continuums to the interest group and community-based involvements available, to the Academy's advocacy and organizational opportunities afforded to those seeking the next step in their family medicine journeys; these avenues of involvement bring valuable perspectives on the

future of the specialty beheld in the student lens. My goal this year was to synthesize these experiential perspectives and networks of family medicine student leaders to inform a process of collaborative representation as a Student Delegate to the Congress and member of the Commission on Education. It has been a pleasure to achieve this in advocating the student perspective on a variety of AAFP policies and initiatives for years to come, sparking further student interest and demand for voice in these national-level conversations that guide the specialty and inform policymaking on a national level.

Specific Reflections from Valentina Sedlacek

It has been an honor and privilege to get involved with the AAFP through representing the student voice at the Congress of Delegates, Commission on Education, and subcommittees. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of and present for important conversations regarding the future of family medicine education, training and field. Preparing for the COD was a push to research all of the resolutions and seek input from other medical students. The encouragement and respect from all members of the Commission on Education and subcommittees and AAFP staff to speak up as a student was profound. It supported my learning, development and confidence as a future family physician and aspiring leader. I also enjoyed the opportunities for additional and deeper involvement in COD related activity. I testified at the 2021 Congress as an alternate Delegate and was a member of an additional task force on policy around substance use disorder education among medical students, and talked with my fellow students and residents about the important topics we were discussing within the AAFP that relate to the greater world. Most importantly, my time on COD allowed me to maintain optimism during these times and hope for a better future. I look forward to further work with the AAFP.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit aafp.org.