



American Medical Association Medical Student Section 2020 Annual Report

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION (AMA-MSS) DELEGATES

Resident

AuBree LaForce
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Rootstown, OH
Class of 2021

Student

Morgan Weiler
University of Kansas School of Medicine
Kansas City, KS
Class of 2022

Last year at a glance

The American Medical Association- Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) is the medical students' voice and representation for protecting and improving medical education and advocating for the future of medicine. The AMA-MSS represents over 200 allopathic and osteopathic schools nationwide consisting of over 60,000 members. The MSS provides a professional space for students to unify their voices to promote health and facilitate real advocacy at medical schools around country. As the AAFP Delegates to the AMA-MSS, our purpose is to represent the AAFP and its policies at both, the interim and annual meetings of the AMA. Additionally, we make continual efforts to represent the student voice to the AAFP delegation. We attended the 2019 AMA-MSS Interim Meeting in San Diego, California. The delegates from each medical school and specialty society discussed and voted on the resolutions for adoption, not for adoption, referral to the AMA House of Delegates or referral for study. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AMA Board of Trustees invoked the AMA's emergency bylaws and suspended the 2020 Annual Meeting. The decision was difficult, but the AMA recognized there needed to be focus on efforts on helping physicians respond at the local level during a challenging time. We joined The Medical Student Section (MSS) held a limited virtual annual meeting on June 6 to conduct governing council elections and provide select COVID-19 related educational programming.

Actions

Throughout the past year, our key actions and discussions have focused on multiple facets of healthcare that are all in the best interest of primary care providers and the patients we serve.

In November at the Interim meeting, we testified on behalf of the AAFP in support of a number of resolutions. A few of the important resolutions we testified on to focused on human sex trafficking and immigrant rights. Additionally, we testified in support of resolutions promoting medical student wellness. These issues are important to us as future family physicians and affects our current family physician members of the AAFP.

There were many other items of business that we discussed, contributed to, and voted on, but these were the primary highlights and areas of focus throughout our term this year.

Future ideas for the position

Our goals for the future of this position include establishing a more effective and influential interaction between the AAFP medical student delegates and the AMA MSS regional delegates. We briefly spoke this year about the possibility of extending the position length, and/or creating a way in which a delegate could extend their role. We feel that there is so much to learn in terms of policy and procedure during the first two meetings that by the time we feel comfortable supporting AAFP policy, it is already time for a new delegate to be appointed. A longer term for the delegate would allow greater confidence in speaking on behalf of the AAFP policy in front of the AMA-MSS. In addition to our efforts this year of speaking at each regional meeting, we hope to create an activity at each AMA meeting to specifically caucus about primary care issues as a group. We will strive to include other primary care delegates such as AAP and ACP. We will establish AAFP as one of the leaders within the AMA MSS specifically regarding primary care issues. Finally, we hope to create an event at the AAFP National Conference to help expose students to current primary care issues being discussed at upcoming AMA meetings. Overall, our goals are to continue the AAFP's mission and well-respected reputation at AMA meetings by being efficient, pro-active members of the AAFP delegation for the benefit of primary care.

Closing remarks by AuBree LaForce

This year has been simply incredible! From developing mentorship with AAFP physicians and staff, to standing and representing our specialty amongst the nation's leaders in medicine, I feel humbled and honored to have had this experience. I want to sincerely thank the entire AAFP and the delegation for welcoming Morgan and me with open arms and extending your leadership even during these unprecedented times. I have observed true collaboration, leadership, and commitment to our specialty and admire the inner fight we all have to propel leadership in family medicine. I plan to continue growing my skills in each of these areas and take them with me into my early career. Morgan and I felt honored to represent the AAFP amongst all medical students, and we felt PROUD to speak on behalf of AAFP policy. We will continue this work wherever we go and will facilitate change that empowers primary care.

Closing remarks by Morgan Weiler

Thank you to the entire AAFP staff and delegates that helped us coordinate wonderful and productive meetings during a unique year in medicine. It was an honor to represent the Academy and fellow medical students at the Interim meeting in person and Annual meeting online. AuBree and I were able to interact with medical students from all walks of life. We shared insight and ideas into the future of medicine. It was an experience that allowed me to develop my skills as a leader and advocate for future patients, communities and medical students. There is so much we can do as young student physicians to help shape the future of medicine! The time to begin that change is NOW!

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.