



AMA-Medical Student Section Delegate AAFP Student Members 2017 Annual Report

AAFP Student Delegates to the American Medical Association – Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS)

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Scope of Work

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 nearly 55,000 members. The MSS provides student members with an influential, unified voice on issues and policy of importance to medical students. It provides students a powerful opportunity to advocate for change. 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 two national meetings this past year, the 2016 AMA-MSS Interim Meeting in Orlando, FL and the 2017 AMA-MSS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. During these AMA meetings, students introduce new policy for consideration by all of the delegates. The delegates from each medical school and specialty society discuss and vote on the resolutions for adoption, not for adoption, referral to the AMA House of Delegates or referral for study.

Discussion and Actions

Throughout this 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 two resolutions. The first was a resolution regarding the AMA encouraging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to discontinue the denial of payments or imposition of negative action during an audit due to absence of specific words in the chief complaint when the note provides adequate documentation of the reason for the visit and services rendered. This is an issue important to us as future family physicians, and affects our current family physician members of AAFP. The other resolution we testified in support of asks the AMA support removing the restrictions on federal funding for firearms violence research. Both of these resolutions were adopted.

In June at the annual meeting in the Medical Student Section, we supported an adopted resolution supporting state legislation to provide universal health care, including a single-payer system. The AAFP is committed to supporting policy that provides health care for all. We supported an amendment made by the authors that made sure this resolution went along with AAFP policy goals, and not solely restrict the AMA to supporting a single payer system. Additionally, we discussed issues such as AMA divesture from companies that profit from fossil fuels, provide resources to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers

with opioid addiction, and research for non-opioid pain management options. We testified to all family medicine issues in support of AAFP policy.

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 creating an infrastructure for future AAFP students to be more influential in the MSS, AAFP delegation, and AMA House of Delegates. Specifically, delegates will receive training to write and discuss MSS resolutions according to AAFP policies, which will help bring brevity and volume to the issues important to family medicine. Additionally, we hope the experience working with the AAFP delegation will help individuals launch into lifelong involvement in advocacy for family medicine. 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 Anna Askari.

I would like to thank the AAFP for this amazing opportunity to serve the Academy and my fellow medical students at the AMA conferences in both the Medical Student Section and the House of Delegates this year. It has been such an educational opportunity for me to grow as a future family physician advocating for the better good of our patients, and healthcare for all. I have learned just how lucky we are as student members of the AAFP to be supported like this by the AAFP leadership. The level of involvement that AAFP student delegates get to have is not found in any other specialty society. I am so grateful for the opportunity that we had to learn from and work alongside of such amazing family physicians, advocates, and leaders this year. I am excited to see what the future holds for our profession and our future patients. The work that the AAFP does to ensure a better and brighter future for family medicine is incredibly important, and I thank them for their continued efforts.

Closing remarks by Tyson Schwab

It truly is an honor to serve the AAFP and represent the medical student's voice in family medicine. Medicine is rapidly changing and consistently being challenged. The future of family medicine literally depends on us. While serving in this position, we were able to work closely with the AAFP delegation. I gained a great appreciation for our AAFP leadership and all of the work they do to protect our future. We, as the rising generation of family physicians, must carry the torch. With concerted effort and hard work, we will improve the lives of our patients, society, and the profession. I look forward to working with you all individually and collectively in the future to further the AAFP mission and purpose to improve the health of patients, families, and communities by serving the needs of members with professionalism and creativity.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.



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.