



# American Medical Association Resident Delegate 2018 Annual Report

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## AAFP RESIDENT DELEGATE TO AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA) HOUSE OF DELEGATES

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### **Intro:**

This report is submitted to the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Students (NCFMRS) National Resident Congress by the AAFP Resident Delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates. It is my hope that this report serves as a resource to the NCFMRS and its participants and provides information about the AMA; our AAFP Delegation to the AMA and its activities; and a brief summary and update of health policy priorities of the AMA House of Delegates, America's House of Medicine. I hope that this report may stimulate a bidirectional conversation and help identify areas of opportunity for both future AMA and AAFP policies.

### **Scope:**

The American Medical Association (AMA) was founded in 1847 and is the largest physician organization in the United States. The AMA's mission is to promote the art and science of medicine for the betterment of the public health, to advance the interests of physicians and their patients, to lobby for legislation favorable to physicians and patients, and to raise money for medical education. The AMA also develops and maintains the AMA Code of Medical Ethics which dictates professional conduct for practicing physicians in the United States and is used around the world. The AMA also publishes the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) which has the largest circulation of any medical journal in the world. The AMA is also responsible for publishing Physician Specialty Codes which identifies physician and practice specialties. Additionally, the AMA develops and maintains the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, which is proprietary and is used by physicians for procedural billing purposes. The AMA also sponsors the Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), which is an influential group of 29 physicians who set the value of physician labor in regards to Medicare prices. The AMA is currently one of the largest political lobbying groups in the United States and has one of the largest political lobbying budgets of any organization in the United States.

The AMA is composed of various internal groups that meet to discuss policy twice a year at the AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting and Interim Meeting. The Annual Meeting is held in Chicago, IL each June. Whereas, the Interim Meeting is set on a rotating schedule for different locations

throughout the United States and is often held each November. The AMA House of Delegates is comprised of over 1,000 Delegates and Alternate Delegates of who half represent state societies and the other half of which represent specialty societies.

The AMA is governed by a Board of Trustees and the House of Delegates has a number of established councils including: Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CCB), Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA), Council on Legislation (COL), Council on Long Range Planning & Development (CLRPD), Council on Medical Education (CME), Council on Medical Service (CMS) and the Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH). Additionally, the AMA is made up of a number of sections including: Medical Students Section (MSS), Resident and Fellows Section (RFS), Young Physicians Section (YPS), Academic Physicians Section (APS), Senior Physicians Section (SPS), International Medical Graduates Section (IMG), Women Physicians Section (WPS), Minority Affairs Section (MAS), the LGBT Advisory Committee, Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS), Integrated Physician Practice Section (IPPS), among others.

Externally, the AMA is comprised of AMA member organizations which form the Federation of Medicine. These groups include specialty societies, state medical societies, federal services, government agencies, among others. These groups have representatives, consultants, advisors and observers to the AMA. The AMA currently has around 200,000 members and representation in the AMA House of Delegates is determined by the number of AMA members in state and specialty societies.

The AAFP is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest delegation in the AMA House of Delegates with 18 Delegates and is one of the most diverse and young delegations in the AMA House of Delegates. Our Delegation includes the following AAFP Officers: AAFP President, AAFP President-Elect, AAFP Board Chair, and the AAFP EVP. The 18 member AAFP Delegation is led by a Chair and Vice Chair and AAFP Delegates are selected and approved by the AAFP Board of Directors for (3) six-year terms for a total of 18 years of service to the delegation. The Delegation now also includes students, residents, and new physician members, as part of a concerted effort by our AAFP Delegation to encourage fresh new faces and increase diversity. The Delegation Chair reports to the AAFP Congress of Delegates annually. The AAFP Delegation is staffed by several AAFP Vice Presidents, Directors and senior staff members who provide tremendous support for our work at the AMA. Members of the AAFP Delegation have also served on AMA Councils and Section Governing Councils, including most recently CCB and CLRPD. The AAFP hosts a Family Medicine Caucus at the AMA for all Family Physicians who participate in the AMA from various states, specialties, and sections. We currently have a number of Family Physicians serving on the AMA Board of Trustees and the current President is a Family Physician as well. This year, Dr. Glenn Loomis, an AAFP Delegate and Chair of CLRPD, ran for the AMA Board of Trustees however was narrowly defeated in a very tight and highly competitive race.

### **Experience:**

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. This year, the Annual Meeting was held in Chicago, IL from June 8-13 and the Interim Meeting will be held in National Harbor, Maryland on November 10-13, 2018. A wide range of topics were discussed at the annual meeting and as your Delegate, I worked to advocate for our AAFP residents and medical students and to promote the policies of the AAFP in the AMA House of Delegates. Furthermore, I worked very hard to promote Family Medicine among Medical Students at all stages of their academic careers during the Medical Student Specialty Showcase event. It was truly a pleasure to share with future physicians the breadth and vast scope of what we do as family docs every day. The House of Delegates also had a special visit from the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, in which he emphasized the importance of continuing to diversify medicine, in addition to calling for urgent attention to the opioid epidemic, and increasing the public use and availability of Naloxone in

emergency situations. As your Delegate, I work closely with all of the members of the AAFP Delegation and Delegation staff and together we work to advance the interests of AAFP members. This year I was able to interview outside candidates from other specialties for counsel and board spots, in addition to be inside a very well-ran campaign for a long time AAFP and AMA member, Dr. Glenn Loomis. While Dr. Loomis was ultimately defeated in his run for the Board of Trustees, the experience for me was invaluable. The amount of hard work and years of preparation the candidates, board, and staff put in to running a successful campaign made me feel extremely proud to be a member of the AAFP.

I am unbelievably thankful to the AAFP for their support as AAFP resident Delegate to the AMA and look forward to continuing our AAFP priorities “with the big docs at the big house”. It has been an honor to serve and represent each of you at this prestigious level as we continue our ultimate goal of being an advocate for our patients. We truly are moving medicine forward, with family medicine helping to lead the way.

Please consider applying for this position in the future if you have an interest in organized medicine and health policy. As the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates you have a great opportunity to be a voice for Family Medicine in the AMA. This position is a 2-year term and is best suited for a rising PGY-2.

Additionally, I urge each of you to consider joining the AMA if you haven't already done so. Our membership in the AMA matters and it increases AAFP representation in the AMA House of Delegates and as a result better advocate for our specialty, our colleagues and our patients. There is also a unique opportunity for residents who wish to become more involved in the AMA House of Delegates. The AMA-RFS has 19 Sectional Delegates that are elected by the AMA-RFS Assembly. This is another fantastic way to serve in the AMA House of Delegates and further increase representation for the AAFP in the AMA House of Delegates. Furthermore, it was a pleasure working with our AAFP Resident Delegates to the AMA-RFS. The AAFP NCFMRS has been very successfully represented at the AMA at every level and we continue to thank each of you for supporting our work.

### **AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting 2018 June 8-13, 2018; Hyatt Regency Chicago**

The Annual Meeting this year had multiple highly publicized topics including: gun violence, the opioid epidemic, and protection of immigrant families. Much of the energy at the meeting focused on numerous policies addressing each of these issues throughout almost all of the reference committees. The current president of the AMA, Dr. Barbe, and the Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, each touched on these major topics as well during their speeches to the House of Delegates. After many hours of heavy debate, moving personal testimonies, and hearing informative information from physicians in numerous specialties on all sides of the issues, I believe many policies were passed that will favor our patients. These included more stringent gun control policies, recommending raising the age from 18 to 21 to purchase a firearm, improved background checks, education on firearms, and registration of firearms. Additionally the house called for the AMA to push lawmakers to place a ban on all “assault weapons”, “armor piercing bullets”, and “high capacity magazines”. While the exact terminology of many of these gun control policies was heavily debated on the floor, the overall sense of the house was in favor of more stringent control to address this public health crisis.

Furthermore, our AMA passed strong policy to help address the ever rising opioid epidemic. The House voted to improve patient education, physician education, physician access to electronic prescribing records, and support resources for these patients. Several policies were also sent for referral to the Board of Trustees for further study as physicians everywhere try to better understand the most effective

approach to addressing this public health issue. A highlight of the meeting was the Surgeon General calling for the widespread use, availability, and education of Naloxone (Narcan), not just by first responders and medical personnel, but also by the public. He referenced the ability of this medication to save lives to an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) or Basic Life Support (BLS), and fully supports its use nationwide.

Finally the campaigns played a major role at this year's annual meeting. President-elect was won by Dr. Patrice Harris, a psychiatrist from Georgia who has been on the Board of Trustees and was chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force. She defeated Dr. Carl Sirio, an internist/critical care physician from Pennsylvania. Ultimately five new Board of Trustees were elected (Dr. Harris winning president opened an additional BOT seat), these were won by Dr. Mario Motta (Cardiology), Dr. Sandra Fryhofer (Internal Medicine), Dr. Jack Resneck Jr. (Dermatology), Dr. Russ Kridel (Facial Plastic Surgery), and Dr. Scott Ferguson (Radiology) following a run-off election. Dr. Susan Bailey and Dr. Bruce Scott ran unopposed for re-election of house speaker and vice speaker.

There were several other victories at this meeting. We advocated for:

- Separation of Children from their Parents at Border
- Opposition to Regulations That Penalize Immigrants for Accessing Health Care Services
- Improving Affordability in the Health Insurance Exchanges
- Considering Feminine Hygiene Products as Medical Necessities
- Expanding On-Site Physician Home Health Care to Low-Income Families and the Chronically Ill
- Insulin Affordability
- Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Oppose Medicaid Eligibility Lockout
- Medicare Coverage for Dental Services
- Integration of Drug Price Information into Electronic Medical Records/Barriers to Price Transparency/Bidirectional Communication for EHR Software and Pharmacies/Health Plan, Pharmacy, Electronic Health Records Integration
- Protection of Clinician-Patient Privilege
- Medical Liability Coverage Through the Federal Tort Claims Act
- CMS Reimbursement Guidelines for Teaching Physician Supervision
- Updating Federal Food Policy to Improve Nutrition and Health
- Maintaining Validity and Comprehensiveness of U.S. Census Data
- Support for Reauthorization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Safe and Efficient E-Prescribing
- Augmented Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare
- Barriers to Obesity Treatment
- Evidence Based Treatment in Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities
- Treating Opioid Use Disorder in Treatment Facilities and in Hospitals
- Legalization of Interpharmacy Transfer of Electronic Controlled Substance Prescriptions
- Reducing MIPS Reporting Burden
- Support for Patients and Physicians in Direct Primary Care
- Scope of Practice Expansion Advocacy and Impacts on Physicians and Medical Students
- All Payer Graduate Medical Education Funding
- Mental Health Disclosures on Physician Licensing Applications
- Persons With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Designated as a Medically Underserved Population
- Sex and Gender Based Medicine
- Opioid Education for New Trainees 2
- Suicide Awareness Training
- Financial Literacy for Medical

- Housing Provision and Social Support to Immediately Alleviate Chronic Homelessness in the United States
- Reporting Child Abuse in Military Families
- Legal Action to Compel FDA to Regulate E-Cigarettes
- The Physician's Role in Firearm Safety
- Tobacco Harm Reduction: A Comprehensive Policy to Reduce Death and Disease Caused by Smoking
- Schools as Gun-free Zones
- Emphasizing the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine as AntiCancer Prophylaxis for a Gender-Neutral Demographic
- Reducing the Use of Restrictive Housing in Prisoners with Mental Illness
- Sex Education Materials for Students with Limited English Proficiency
- Rape and Sexual Assault on College Campuses
- LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Sex Education Alongside Heterosexual
- Creation of LGBTQ Health Specialty Section Council
- Support Gun Buyback Programs in Order to Reduce the Number of Circulating Unwanted Firearms
- Reducing Disparities in Obstetric Outcomes, Maternal Morbidity, and Prenatal Care
- Decrease Adolescent Mortality Through More Comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing Programs
- Over-the-Counter Contraceptive Drug Access
- Support for Service Animals, Emotional Support Animals, Animals in Healthcare, and Medical Benefits of Pet Ownership
- Ending the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Policy on Mifepristone (Mifeprex)
- Naloxone on Commercial Airlines
- Effects of Virtual Reality on Human Health
- Opposing the Classification of Cannabidiol as a Schedule 1 Drug
- Impact of Natural Disasters on Pharmaceutical Supply and Public Health
- Education for Recovering Patients on Opiate Use After Sobriety
- Biosimilar Interchangeability Pathway
- Eliminating Food Waste Through Recovery
- Expanding Access to Screening Tools for Social Determinants of Health/Social Determinants of Health in Payment Models
- Ensuring Medicare Coverage for Long Term Care

Once again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your voice and representative as the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. I urge each of you to please consider your memberships in Organized Medicine and join our AMA, and your state and county medical societies. Together, we can move medicine!

Respectfully submitted,  
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*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](http://aafp.org).*



