



2018 Legislative Priorities

Senate Bill 826-Naturopathic Licensure and Scope of Practice

Opposition to naturopathic licensure has been the primary focus for MAFP in 2018. The bill was introduced in mid-February. Instead of being referred to the Senate Health Policy Committee, the bill was sent to the Regulatory Reform Committee. A month later, the committee took testimony on the bill and voted to move the bill before the full Senate for a vote. In May the Michigan Senate considered the bill and voted in favor 24-11. Opposition was bi-partisan with both leaders of the Health Policy Committee voting against.

MAFP made a larger push in opposition when the bill moved to the House. The bill was, this time, referred to the Health Policy Committee. MAFP focused efforts with Health Policy Members to share the public health dangers which are encompassed within this legislation. MAFP took the lead in forming a coalition of health care providers to unite our opposition efforts.

House Bills 5793, 5783, 5787-Sexual Misconduct Bill Package

In the wake of the Larry Nassar scandal at Michigan State University, legislators in Michigan proposed a multi-bill package aimed at protecting patients and limiting the potential for this to occur in the future. These three bills were just part of the larger bill package and they had some potentially serious consequences for physicians. Most notably the criminalization of errors in documenting certain procedures. Glenn Dregansky, DO, FAAFP was part of a physician panel which presented these concerns to the House Law and Justice Committee. The committee considered these recommendations and amended the bill to address the concerns raised.

Opioid Laws

Michigan has passed and enacted multiple pieces of legislation and departmental rules over the past year to try to reduce the effects of the opioid epidemic. MAFP has been a key player in helping craft these rules and laws. As some of the unintended consequences have unfolded, MAFP has worked with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, other prescribers, and the pharmacists to make necessary changes. One area in which MAFP helped shape is clarifying the law with regards to a patient-prescriber relationship being established before prescribing and what to do in the event of the prescriber being unavailable. MAFP is a founding member of the Michigan Healthcare Stakeholders Opioid Stewardship Collaborative which is working to identify and clarify inconsistencies with the recently enacted laws. The collaborative is also working to update the start talking form is working with the departments to update frequently asked questions.

Items included in these laws include:

- Requirement to use a “start talking” form before prescribing to a new patient, or at any point where the prescription changes
- Searching the Michigan Automated Prescription System before writing every prescription for a controlled substance



- Prescribing a maximum of a seven-day supply for acute pain
- Mandate to establish a bona fide prescriber-patient relationship

Budget

MAFP worked diligently to advocate for the practice of Family Medicine in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The budget included \$5 million in student loan repayment for Family Physicians who practice for two years in underserved areas. There was another \$5 million initiative which was aimed at expanding residency slots in existing residency programs for primary care residents who have the opportunity to practice in underserved areas, called MiDocs.