

## Report of the Reference Committee on Policy

Reference Committee Chair: Mr. Speaker, the Reference Committee on Policy has considered each of the items referred to it and desires to present the following report. The Committee's recommendations on each item will be submitted on our consent calendar.

*Speaker: Should the Congress approve the consent calendar, all items on the consent calendar will be disposed of in that single action. There will not be any opportunity for discussion on any item that is included on the consent calendar after the consent calendar is adopted. It is important, therefore, to extract an item from the consent calendar at this time if you wish to discuss that item. A motion to extract something from the consent calendar does not require a second. Any delegate may extract an item from the consent calendar by so moving that the item be extracted and the item will be extracted without objection. The items on the consent calendar are listed in the report of the reference committee and are being projected on the screen. Does anyone have anything they would like to have extracted?*

### A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Speaker, the Committee wishes to place on the Consent Calendar the following items:

1. Resolution 18-02 "Support Measures to Decrease Maternal Mortality in the United States" **Adopted as Amended**
2. Resolution 18-03 "Reducing Patient Meat Consumption & Promoting Plant Based Diet" **Referred to the Board**
3. Resolution 18-05 "Reducing Gun Violence" **Adopted as Amended**
4. Resolution 18-08 "Oppose the Criminalization of Self-Induced Abortion" **Adopted**
5. Resolution 18-09 "Removing REMS Categorization on Mifepristone" **Adopted**
6. Resolution 18-12 "Increased Research for Preventing and Diagnosing Tick-Borne Disease" **Adopted as Amended**
7. Resolution 18-16 "AAFP Neutral Policy on Medical Aid in Dying" **Adopted as Amended**
8. Resolution 18-19 "Prevent Closing of the National Guidelines Clearinghouse" **Adopted**
9. Resolution 18-20 "Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF) Pro" **Adopt Substitute Resolution**

10. Resolution 18-21 “Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF) Con” **Not Adopt Resolution**
11. Resolution 18-23 “Oppose Medical Marijuana” **Not Adopt Resolution**
12. Resolution 18-24 “Oppose Recreational Marijuana” **Not Adopt Resolution**
13. Resolution 18-26L “Taking a Stand against Inhumane Immigration Practices to Prevent Childhood Trauma” **Affirmed**
14. Resolution 18-27L “Medical Aid in Dying” **Adopted**

Mr. Speaker, the Committee moves adoption of the Consent Calendar as listed.

RESOLUTION 18-02.

**SUBJECT: Support Measures to Decrease Maternal Mortality in the United States**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Margarita DeFedericis, MD

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to support non-punitive maternal mortality review committees and advocate for legislative and fiscal support for their establishment and maintenance and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate for evidence-based measures known to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity such as access to contraception, health insurance coverage for all pregnant women, healthy food programs for women in poverty, and multidisciplinary interventions such as the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative hemorrhage toolkit and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP Office of Diversity to develop or collaborate in developing a curriculum in implicit bias and reproductive justice principles for presentation at state and national AAFP Continuing Medical Education conferences to combat discrimination and bias from healthcare providers and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to support and advocate for legislative initiatives to fund research to further understand both the high rate in the US and the disparities in maternal mortality rates.

*The reference committee heard overwhelming positive testimony on the resolution. Testimony included support of the issue that should be addressed. Testimony included acknowledgement that ACOG has been legislating for funding for a maternal review board. Testimony also*

*stressed the importance of confidentiality of data. To that effect, the first resolved clause was amended as follows:*

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to support non-punitive, protected and confidential maternal mortality review committees and advocate for legislative and fiscal support for their establishment and maintenance and, be it further

The Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 18-02 **be adopted as amended.**

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RESOLUTION 18-03.

SUBJECT:               **Reducing Patient Meat Consumption & Promoting Plant Based Diets**

SUBMITTED BY:   Jonathan von Reusner

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP support research into the risks to individual and global health linked to dietary consumption of animal products and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP take a position against the dietary consumption of animal products and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP educate physicians on the merits of a plant based diet for all patients, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP supports policies that encourage patients to reduce patient meat consumption, especially red meat and, be it further

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP support legislation intended to reduce or incentivize the reduction of meat consumption and, be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP congress of delegates introduce a resolutions directing the AAFP to draft a letter to the CDC urging a review of the evidence on the merits of plant based diets and, be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP congress of delegates introduce a resolution directing the AAFP to post information about the merits of plant based diets, remove information which promotes meat consumption, and include information which accurately portrays the risks associated with meat based diets on their patient-facing educational website ([www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)).

*While the Reference Committee heard mixed support for the intent of the resolution, it was felt that recrafting this resolution was beyond the scope of this committee and would like the resolution referred to the board and it should emphasize education on plant-based diet.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-02 **be referred to the Board.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-05.

SUBJECT:               **Reducing Gun Violence**

SUBMITTED BY:   Public Health Commission

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) advocate for sensible restrictions on gun ownership at a state level, including expanded background checks and restricting gun sales in the cases of people with a history of domestic violence and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP advocate for continued restrictions on types of guns or alterations to guns that make their rate of firing and number of bullets similar to that of an automatic weapon, which are currently prohibited in New York State and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP advocate against loosening or removing restrictions on gun ownership that are currently in place in New York State and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP advocate for state laws that would protect children from dangerous or unsupervised gun use, including (a) mandatory inclusion of safety devices on all firearms, whether manufactured or imported into the United States, including built-in locks, loading indicators, safety locks on triggers, and increases in the minimum pressure required to pull triggers, and (b) bans on the possession and use of firearms and ammunition by unsupervised youths under the age of 21 and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP and local chapters develop partnerships with law enforcement and community-based organizations to provide education to its members and the general public on the safe use, storage, and disposal of unwanted and illegal firearms, and advocate for these law enforcement agencies to provide gun buyback programs on an annual basis.

*Testimony was mixed, with several members supporting various aspects of this resolution. There was a general sense, however, that certain aspects, like the gun locks and the age requirements, may either be unworkable, or not appropriate throughout the state. Therefore, after hearing testimony, the committee decided to amend the resolution as follows, by deleting language in the fourth resolved, calling for specific safety features, and by changing the age of majority to 18, and by deleting the word "sensible" from the first resolved clause since it is ambiguous.*

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) advocate for ~~sensible~~ restrictions on gun ownership at a state level, including expanded background checks and restricting gun sales in the cases of people with a history of domestic violence and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP advocate for state laws that would protect children from dangerous or unsupervised gun use, including (a) mandatory inclusion of safety devices on all firearms, whether manufactured or imported into the United States, ~~including built-in locks, loading indicators, safety locks on triggers, and increases in the minimum pressure required to pull triggers,~~ and (b) bans on the possession and use of firearms and ammunition by unsupervised youths under the ~~age of 21~~ age of 18 and, be it further

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-05 **be adopted as amended.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-08.

SUBJECT:               **Oppose the Criminalization of Self-Induced Abortion**

SUBMITTED BY:   New York County Chapter to Public Health Commission

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) lobby against any legislative efforts to criminalize self-induced abortion, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate and lobby against any legislative efforts to criminalize self-induced abortion.

*The reference committee heard only positive testimony on this resolution.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-08 **be adopted.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-09.

SUBJECT:               **Removing REMS Categorization on Mifepristone**

SUBMITTED BY:   New York County Chapter to the Public Health Commission

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) engage in lobbying efforts to overturn the REMS classification on mifepristone , and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to endorse the principle that the REMS classification on mifepristone is not based on scientific evidence and limits access to abortion care, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP join the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration seeking to end the REMS classification on mifepristone by endorsing the principle that the REMS classification on mifepristone is not based on scientific evidence and limits access to abortion care, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to engage in lobbying efforts to overturn the REMS classification on mifepristone and also join the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation lawsuit against the FDA.

*The reference committee heard only positive testimony of this resolution. The testimony stressed the importance of increased access to Mifepristone and noted that a similar resolution came before the AMA house of delegates.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-09 **be adopted**.

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-12.

**SUBJECT:                   Increased Research for Preventing and Diagnosing Tick-Borne Diseases**

**SUBMITTED BY:   Public Health Commission**

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians delegation to the American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate greater federal and private-sector funding that will reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases/infection through prevention and environmental measures, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians delegation to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate for greater federal and private-sector funding to develop reliable diagnostic tests for tick-borne diseases, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians delegation to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate greater federal and private-sector funding to research and produce a hold-harmless vaccine that will block a tick's ability to transmit disease, and meet appropriate standards regarding efficacy, cost, and safety including safety for children and adults.

*The reference committee heard only positive testimony of this resolution, however members indicated a general concern about the evidence base for tick-borne disease evaluation and management. The committee recommends amending by adding the words "evidence-based" to the second resolved clause.*

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians delegation to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate for greater federal and private-sector funding to develop reliable evidence-based diagnostic tests for tick-borne diseases, and be it further

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-12 **be adopted as amended.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-16.

SUBJECT:               **AAFP Neutral Policy on Medical Aid in Dying**

SUBMITTED BY:   Heather Paladine, MD

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates bring forth a resolution instructing their bodies to adopt a position that the use of medical aid in dying is an ethical, personal, end-of-life decision that should be made in the context of the doctor-patient relationship; and that the AAFP adopt a neutral policy on physician participation in medical aid in dying in states in which it is legal.

*The reference committee heard only positive testimony of this resolution. There was, however, testimony suggesting the resolution be also sent to MSSNY and language was added to reflect that recommendation.*

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates and MSSNY delegates bring forth a resolution instructing their bodies to adopt a position that the use of medical aid in dying is an ethical, personal, end-of-life decision that should be made in the context of the doctor-patient relationship; and that the AAFP adopt a neutral policy on physician participation in medical aid in dying in states in which it is legal.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-16 **be adopted as amended.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-19.

SUBJECT:               **Prevent Closing of the National Guidelines Clearinghouse**

SUBMITTED BY:   Bob Morrow MD

RESOLVED, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors send a letter to the New York State Department of Health, requesting they petition the Administration for Health Care Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services to restore and make permanent funding for the National Guidelines Clearinghouse and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates introduce a resolution directing the AAFP to send a letter to the Administration for Health Care Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services to restore and make permanent funding for the National Guidelines Clearinghouse and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates introduce a resolution directing the AAFP to advocate for legislation to make permanent funding for the National Guidelines Clearinghouse and, be it further

RESOLVED, the NYSAFP EVP contact the AAFP Executive Director immediately following the conclusion of the NYSAFP COD to request a joint press conference and press statement addressing the closing of the National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC) and its perceived impact on the care of patients, and calling for restoration and making permanent the funding of the NGC.

*The reference committee heard only positive testimony of this resolution. There were no objections.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-19 **be adopted**.

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-20.

SUBJECT:           **Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF) Con**

SUBMITTED BY:    Marc Price, DO

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians opposes and advocates against the establishment of Supervised Injection Facilities within New York State

*After hearing significant mixed testimony about the resolution, the committee recommends not adopting this resolution in lieu of Resolution 18-21.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-20 **not be adopted**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-21.

SUBJECT:           **Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF) Pro**

SUBMITTED BY:    Marc Price, DO

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians supports and advocates for the establishment of Supervised Injection Facilities within New York State

*There was significant mixed testimony about this resolution, and a number of members expressed a desire to include more comprehensive services and a focus on prevention, treatment and support services. The committee believes amending by adding a second resolved clause would be beneficial.*

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians supports and advocates for the establishment of Supervised Injection Facilities within New York State and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians that SIFS include prevention, education, treatment and counseling and support social services.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends that **Substitute Resolution 18-21 be adopted**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-23.

SUBJECT:               **Oppose Medical Marijuana Expansion**

SUBMITTED:           Albany County Chapter

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians advocate against further expansion of the use of medical marijuana in New York State.

*There was substantially mixed testimony on this resolution. Given there remains no consensus, or even overwhelming majority opinion, and since the laws remain unclear, we recommend maintaining existing NYAFP policy (Resolution 13-08)*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-23 **not be adopted**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-24.

SUBJECT:               **Oppose Recreational Marijuana**

SUBMITTED BY:       Albany County Chapter

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians advocate against legalization of recreational use marijuana in New York State.

*There was substantially mixed testimony on this resolution. Given there remains no consensus, or even overwhelming majority opinion, and since the laws remain unclear, we recommend maintaining existing NYAFP policy (Resolution 15-07).*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends Resolution 18-24 **not be adopted**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-26L.

**SUBJECT: Taking a Stand against Inhumane Immigration Practices to Prevent Childhood Trauma**

**SUBMITTED BY: Wayne S. Strouse, MD**

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) take a stand that except in extreme circumstances, such as a violent crime, families should remain together, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP considers the forcible separation of families to be an inhumane practice, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York delegation to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates (AAFP COD) bring a resolution stating that the forcible separation of families by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) officers for the crime of illegal border entry should be discontinued immediately, and all efforts made to reunite families.

*After hearing testimony, the committee believes the sentiment behind this resolution is important, however current actions of the AAFP suggest the actions requested by this resolution are already in progress, therefore, the resolution should be affirmed.*

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends **Resolution 18-26 be affirmed.**

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Mr. Speaker, the Committee considered Resolution 18-27.

**SUBJECT: Medical Aid In Dying**

**SUBMITTED BY: Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD**

RESOLVED, that the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) supports the right of patients at the end-of-life to have access to medical aid in dying when the patient is terminally ill, is suffering, and is capable of making an informed decision regarding end-of-life treatment, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP rejects use of the term “assisted suicide” when describing care to assist a patient who has made the decision to end his/her suffering through medical aid in dying and, instead, shall describe such situations as “medical aid in dying”, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP will assume a neutral position regarding efforts by New York State or the federal government to permit medical aid in dying and that the NYSAFP shall hold this position regardless of any position on the matter of any other medical organization, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP will support state and federal laws which protect physicians from criminal prosecution and civil liability who assist terminally ill patients in ending their suffering pursuant to state or federal laws which permit medical aid in dying, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD) present a resolution regarding medical aid in dying instructing the AAFP to enact policy determinations that would be consistent with stated NYSAFP policy.

After hearing testimony, the committee recommends the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends to adopt **Resolution 18-27 be adopted**

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Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the Committee's report as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of my Reference Committee. I would also like to thank the members of the Academy who testified at the Reference Committee for their insight and their cooperation. I would like to thank Ms. Penny Ruhm and Ms. Kelly Madden and for assisting the Committee in preparing this report.

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[https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2018/pr014-18.page;](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2018/pr014-18.page)

[https://www.propublica.org/article/new-york-city-launches-committee-to-review-maternal-deaths;](https://www.propublica.org/article/new-york-city-launches-committee-to-review-maternal-deaths)

[https://nyam.org/summit-resources/;](https://nyam.org/summit-resources/)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/22/nyregion/childbirth-death-doula-medicaid.html>