

New York State Academy of Family Physicians

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The New York State Academy of Family Physicians represents over 6,000 physicians, residents and students in family medicine throughout New York State.

2015 Priorities

Access to Healthcare

- Support universal healthcare coverage through a single payer health system
- Support initiatives to enroll more uninsured/ underserved people in public health insurance programs including Medicaid and the *NY State of Health* Exchange
- Encourage practicing and retired physicians to volunteer to care for the uninsured and underserved through immunity from liability
- Support universal state purchase and distribution of all vaccinations and universal insurance coverage of vaccines



Women's Health & Age Appropriate Sex Education

- Support initiatives to protect a physician's medical judgment with reproductive health care and protect physicians acting in good faith from criminal charges
- Support efforts to expand access to emergency contraception
- Support expansion of existing law to allow for use of patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT) for all Sexually Transmitted Diseases recommended by the CDC
- Support comprehensive sexual education legislation
- Support minors' ability to consent to receive the HPV vaccine
- Prohibit health insurer prior approvals for contraceptive devices which can restrict or delay their use and result in unintended pregnancies; Support having oral contraception available without a prescription



Public Health & Safety

- Support increase in state funding for New York's Tobacco Control Program and expansion of program to include electronic cigarettes; Support efforts to regulate electronic cigarettes like tobacco, to raise tobacco purchase age to 21 and to ban sale of tobacco in pharmacies
- Support increase in state funding for New York's obesity prevention program, tax on sugar sweetened beverages and ban on sale of energy drinks to children
- Support measures to provide more walk-able and bike-able communities and decrease in NYC speed limit to 20 mph
- Strongly urge the State to consider the public health impacts of hydrofracking by conducting the proper study of the health impacts prior to permitting hydrofracking and ensuring adequate funding of such oversight
- Support ensuring that incarcerated persons have access to their prescribed medications in a timely manner
- Prohibit the use of possession of condoms as evidence in a trial, hearing or proceeding in arrest for prostitution



Encourage Growth of Family Practice in New York State

- Support efforts to ensure that every medical school in the State has a family medicine department (currently three do not)
- Support increased funding for the Doctors Across New York program to provide loan forgiveness awards and other grants to establish medical practices in exchange for working in underserved physician shortage areas
- Support income tax credits for physicians who practice in specialty shortage areas
- Support state funding for Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
- Support continued funding for Graduate Medical Education for primary care residency programs and encourage state medical schools to include family medicine and primary care residency slots
- Support multiple pathways to enhanced reimbursement as Medical Homes in the State beyond NCQA
- Urge that Primary Care Physician organizations be included in programs to implement the provisions of the MRT 1115 waiver if approved
- Support license reciprocity for fleeting instances of practicing medicine



Peer Review/ Tort Reform

- Support legislation to prohibit the disclosure and discovery of the testimony of a party to a health care quality assurance or peer review proceeding
- Support comprehensive Medical Liability Reform and continued state funding for the Excess Malpractice program without changes. Pursue binding arbitration with patients in lieu of litigation
- Oppose legislation to eliminate the 2 ½ year statute of limitations in medical liability cases

Equitable Payment

- Support legislation to allow health care providers to collectively negotiate
- Support disclosure of health insurer criteria for establishing physician fees and advocate for adequate compensation for primary care providers.
- Support legislation to limit and provide protections related to insurance plan audits of physician practices and the use of extrapolation in determining recovery amounts.
- Support implementation of pay-for-performance programs with physician input and reimbursement of physicians for required data mining
- Support the creation of a CPT code specific for the task of advocating for patients access to imaging, medications or other lab studies.

Other Priorities

- Oppose licensing of naturopaths as naturopathic doctors
- Oppose any legislation to set criterion or requirements for continuing Education/ training for licensure or re-registration of physicians
- Advocate that every school have a school nurse for care of students

