

2016 Priorities

Access to Healthcare

- Support:**
- Universal healthcare coverage through a single payer health system**
 - Universal state purchase and distribution of all vaccinations
 - Minors' ability to consent to receive the HPV vaccine
 - That only medical exemptions be permitted for ACIP-recommended childhood vaccines
 - Legislation to require clinical peer reviewers to be licensed, registered or certified in New York State
- Encourage:**
- Practicing and retired physicians to volunteer to care for the uninsured and underserved through immunity from liability**

Reproductive Health

- Support:**
- Initiatives to protect a physician's medical judgment with reproductive health care and protect physicians acting in good faith from criminal charges**
 - Efforts to expand access to emergency contraception
 - Expansion of existing law to allow for use of patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT) for all Sexually Transmitted Diseases recommended by the CDC
 - Comprehensive sexual education legislation
 - Availability of oral contraception without a prescription
- Oppose:**
- Health insurer prior approvals for contraceptive devices which restrict or delay their use and result in unintended pregnancies**
 - Oppose mandatory drug testing of pregnant women

Public Health & Safety

- Support:**
- Expansion of ISTOP law to include methadone clinics and Veterans Affairs facilities**
 - 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
 - Increase in state funding for New York's obesity prevention program; support tax on sugar sweetened beverages and advocate for ban on sale of energy drinks to children
 - Measures to provide more walk-able/ bike-able communities and decrease in NYC speed limit to 20 mph
- Advocate:**
- That incarcerated persons have access to their prescribed medications**
 - For policies to limit use of fossil fuels and the production of environmental pollutants

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)
-Making the Doctors Across NY program permanent and advocate for increased funding to provide loan forgiveness/ other grants to establish medical practices in physician shortage areas
-Income tax credits for physicians who practice in specialty shortage areas
-State funding for Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
-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

Advocate: -For a rotation in family medicine as a physician licensure requirement

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
-Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform and continued state funding for the Excess Malpractice program. 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
-Disclosure of health insurer criteria for establishing physician fees and advocate for adequate compensation for primary care providers
-Legislation to limit and provide protections related to insurance plan audits of physician practices and the use of extrapolation in determining recoveries
-Implementation of pay-for-performance programs with physician input and reimbursement of physicians for required data mining
-The creation of a CPT code specific for the task of advocating for patients access to imaging, medications or other lab studies

Advocate: -For state funding to provide Medicaid-Medicare rate parity for primary care

Other Priorities

Support: -License reciprocity for fleeting instances of practicing medicine
-Multiple pathways to enhanced reimbursement as Medical Homes in the State beyond NCQA

Advocate: -That it be considered a felony to assault a physician on duty in any setting
-That every school have a school nurse for care of students

Oppose: -Any legislation to set criterion or requirements for Continuing Education/ training for licensure or re-registration of physicians
-Oppose licensing of naturopaths as naturopathic doctors