

New York State Academy of Family Physicians

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

2017 Priorities

Access to Healthcare

- Support:**
- Required reporting of adult vaccine doses to State Immunization Registry (NYSIIS)
 - 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/ certified in New York
 - Legislation to require health insurers to use clinical evidence in the development of step therapy/fail first protocols and to provide a clear/standardized appeals process to protect patients
- Advocate:**
- For mandatory insurance coverage without cost sharing for nutritional products to treat inborn errors of metabolism
 - For practicing and retired physicians to volunteer to care for the uninsured and underserved through immunity from liability
- Oppose:**
- Efforts to remove "prescriber prevails" under the Medicaid program

Women's/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
 - 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
 - Efforts to expand access to emergency contraception
 - Availability of oral contraception without a prescription
 - Establishment of lactation accommodations in public transportation facilities
 - Use of standards created by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare and US Preventative Services Task Force for healthcare provided to women who are incarcerated
- 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
 - Inclusion of gender expression and gender identity protections in NY's anti-discrimination laws
- 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, including advocating that physicians should be allowed to participate in START-UP NY Program.
 - 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:**
- Any cuts or reforms to the Excess Malpractice Program and limit physician access to the program including family physicians
 - 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:**
- A pilot program allowing medically supervised safe injection facilities as a harm reduction strategy**
 - 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
 - **Specialty Societies should be authorized to develop CME courses on opioid abuse prevention for their membership**

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

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