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