

# New York State Academy of Family Physicians

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

## 2023 Priorities

### Access to Healthcare

- Support:**
- Universal healthcare coverage through a single payer health system
  - The implementation of prior authorization and other insurance simplification reforms
  - Universal state purchase and distribution of all vaccinations
  - Legislation to provide for medical aid in dying
- 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
  - Parity in telehealth coverage when telehealth (video and audio-only visits) provided by a patient's established primary care physician/practice
- Oppose:**
- Efforts to remove "prescriber prevails" under the Medicaid program

### Women's/Reproductive Health

- Support:**
- Protections for NY clinicians to use of telemedicine for medication abortions for those in restrictive states
  - Removal of REMS classification of mifepristone
  - Comprehensive sexual education legislation
  - Use of standards created by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare and US Preventive Services Task Force for healthcare provided to women who are incarcerated
- Oppose:**
- Federal ban on funding for abortions (Hyde Amendment)
  - 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
  - Oppose legislation to criminalize seeking out-of-state abortion services

### Public Health & Safety

- Support:**
- Efforts to reach "herd immunity" with COVID-19 vaccination including a requirement for health care personnel to be vaccinated
  - Required reporting of adult vaccine doses to State Immunization Registry (NYSIIS)
  - Expansion of ISTOP law to include methadone clinics and Veterans Affairs facilities
  - Increase in state funding for New York's Tobacco Control Program, increase in tobacco taxes and ban of flavored tobacco products
  - 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
- Advocate:**
- For pilot programs allowing medically supervised safe injection facilities for harm reduction
  - That incarcerated persons have access to their prescribed medications
  - For policies to limit use of fossil fuels and the production of environmental pollutants
  - For protection of physicians against assaults (as automatic felonies), regardless of setting
  - Increased restrictions on gun ownership and other efforts to curb gun violence
  - For legislation against sexual assault and for protection of sex workers

- For equity and inclusion in community and team sports for gender-diverse individuals
- For independent medical oversight of migrant detention centers
- For ending detention of asylum seekers and the separation of migrant families
- For reallocation of funding for policing and restoration of funding for schools, health care, mental health and social services
- For increased civilian oversight of police agencies

**Oppose:** - Oppose independent practice by Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants

### **Encourage Growth of Family Practice in New York State**

- Support:**
- Creation of Clinical Preceptor Tax Credit; Seek \$3 million in state funding
  - Efforts to ensure that every medical school in the State has a family medicine department
  - Increased funding for the Doctors Across NY program to provide loan forgiveness/ other grants to establish medical practices in physician shortage areas
  - For physician practices to be able included in START-UP NY
  - Continued 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
  - Maintaining state funding for the Excess Medical Malpractice Program without changes in eligibility or funding
  - Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform measures. Pursue binding arbitration with patients in lieu of litigation and a loser pays tort reform measure

### **Equitable Payment**

- Support:**
- Legislation to allow health care providers to collectively negotiate
  - Comprehensive prior authorization reform measures including bill to require clinical peer reviewers to be licensed/registered/ certified in New York
  - 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, and 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 and other investments in primary care

### **Other Priorities**

- Support:**
- License reciprocity for instances of practicing medicine
  - Multiple pathways to enhanced reimbursement as Medical Homes in the State beyond NCQA
  - Legislation to prohibit use of healthcare, lifestyle and personal data by insurance companies
- Advocate:**
- That every school has a school nurse for care of students
  - For public investments to achieve broadband access to improve Internet connectivity
- Oppose:**
- Any legislation to set criterion or requirements for Continuing Education/ training for licensure or re-registration of physicians
  - Licensing of naturopaths as naturopathic doctors

