

How the AAFP Advocated for You in 2023

More than 1,000 advocates took some 4,500 actions to advance family medicine at the local, state and federal levels. We're wrapping up 2023 by highlighting some of the major wins the AAFP accomplished thanks in part* to you, our dedicated family medicine advocates.

Addressing Administrative Burden



- Successfully urged CMS to crack down on prior authorization requirements and coverage denials by Medicare Advantage plans.
- Successfully advocated for CMS to publish a proposed rule to broaden electronic prior authorization standards and comply with transparency requirements. 🗣️
- Encouraged CMS to finalize a rule requiring state Medicaid agencies to report on a standardized set of quality measures.
- Supported the Primary Care Enhancement Act.

Recognizing the Value of Primary Care



- Successfully advocated for the implementation of G2211 to pay more accurately for complex, high-value office visits. 🔑 🗣️
- Testified before the Senate Finance Committee on supporting independent primary care practices amid consolidation.
- Supported the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act. 🏛️
- Testified before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee on reducing administrative burden and improving payment.
- Testified at a DEA public listening session to share support for permanent telehealth prescribing regulations.
- Influenced the design of Making Care Primary, a state-based APM launching in July 2024.

Strengthening the Workforce



- Successfully advocated for CMS to increase GME residency slots for primary care.
- Successfully advocated for an extension of the Conrad 30 waiver program. *speak out
- Successfully called for CMS to designate rural emergency hospitals as training facilities eligible to receive GME funds and serve as Rural Track Program rotator sites.
- Successfully advocated for the bipartisan Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, which would extend the THCGME program for seven years and increase investment. 🗣️ 🏛️

Improving Health Care for All



- Encouraged CMS to identify low payment rates as a barrier to care for beneficiaries.
- Advocated for better oversight of federal parity requirements to improve access to mental health and SUD care.
- Encouraged the FTC to finalize a proposed rule to protect the privacy and security of patients' health information.
- Successfully Advocated for stronger primary care and behavioral health access standards in Medicare Advantage, Medicaid managed care and ACA marketplace plans.
- Supported CMS' new Medicare coding and payment rules to support primary care practices in identifying and addressing unmet social needs.

Prioritizing Public Health



- Pushed to extend all PHE-related telehealth flexibilities for prescribing controlled substances.
- Supported the elimination of out-of-pocket costs for all ACIP-recommended adult vaccines covered under Medicaid and Medicare Part D.
- Advocated for funding for behavioral health care, 9-8-8 crisis services, SUD treatment and more.

State-level Advocacy and Progress



- Maryland's budget now includes funding for Medicaid E/M codes that will be higher than Medicare rates.
- Illinois' 2024 budget and Medicaid omnibus legislation contains \$25 million in physician rate increases.
- Texas granted the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program a 20.4% increase.
- Florida secured \$30 million in the state budget for enhancing GME funding for residency positions.
- Alabama passed a preceptor income tax for medical students who train in rural and underserved areas.

*indicates member advocacy through 🔑 Key Contact involvement 🗣️ Speak Out campaign 🏛️ FMAS ask

