



2020 FEDERAL PRIORITIES



STRENGTHENING PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Enact a multi-year reauthorization of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program to preserve and expand training sites for primary care physicians in our nation's rural and underserved communities. Support enactment of legislation that increases the physician workforce through increased graduate medical education funding and expanded student loan repayment programs. This would include programs that facilitate the expansion of the physician workforce in rural and underserved communities, as well as in medical specialties of need. Educate Congress on the importance of funding a physician-led health workforce.



ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Preserve essential benefits coverage, consumer and benefit protections, and ensure that currently insured individuals do not unwillingly lose health insurance coverage as a result of any action or inaction by policymakers.

Promote network adequacy to ensure patients have access to covered services, including specialty and subspecialty services, and support the development of policies that minimize out of network billing.

Support enactment of legislation that alleviates patients' access to prescription drugs and physician services due to arbitrary burdens in step therapy and prior authorization.

Support enactment of legislation that expands access to services and prescription drugs that treat substance use disorder and manage chronic conditions.

Support enactment of legislation that promotes opioid alternatives for pain management, funds research and treatment, and promotes greater access to substance abuse treatment.

Support enactment of legislation that expands the use of Health Savings Account (HSA) when partnered with high deductible health plans.



REGULATORY REFORM

Support policies that reduce administrative burden, strengthen the patient-physician relationship, and promote the physician-led, team-based model of health care delivery.

Support value-based arrangements that provide adequate reimbursement and greater flexibility in service delivery, particularly for physicians in small and independent practices.

Support health information technology (HIT) policies that promote interoperability, secure electronic exchange of health care data, and eliminate information blocking.



ENTITLEMENT REFORM

Ensure continued funding to support Medicaid expansion as currently available, and preserve existing structure of Medicare and Medicaid minimum thresholds for coverage and payment.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Support administrative and legislative proposals that would reduce nicotine and tobacco use of any form, and promote cessation in all populations as well as promote utilization of evidence-based vaccine guidelines.



FY 2021 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Support funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies that will help facilitate greater support for osteopathic physician-researchers, and build research capacity and infrastructure at osteopathic institutions.



2020 STATE PRIORITIES



SCOPE OF PRACTICE & NEW LICENSURE TYPES

Support legislation that promotes the physician-led, teambased model of health care delivery. Support uniform, evidence-based licensure pathways for physicians, as well as non-physician clinicians, based upon scope of practice.



OSTEOPATHIC EQUIVALENCY AND RECOGNITION

Ensure that legislation appropriately recognizes osteopathic physicians, residents and students, as well as osteopathic examinations and board certifications, as equivalent to their allopathic counterparts.



TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

Support legislation that requires all health care providers to affirmatively communicate their degrees and licensure type to patients.



PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Support enactment of legislation that increases the physician workforce through increasing funding for graduate medical education and expanding financial incentives to attract physicians to rural and underserved areas/populations.



TELEMEDICINE

Support the delivery of appropriate health care services, including the prescription of controlled substances, through telemedicine and other communications-based technologies. Advocate for payment parity between these services and similar services delivered in-person.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE, ABUSE AND DIVERSION

Support evidence-based approach to this issue that balances the need to curb prescription drug misuse while ensuring access to timely, appropriate health care for patients with legitimate pain care needs. Support legislation that promotes non-opioid alternatives for pain management, including OMT, and provides funding for research and treatment.



ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Support legislation that enhances access to timely, affordable, high-quality care for all patients.



INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

Support enactment of the Compact, which provides a voluntary, expedited pathway to physician licensure in multiple states.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Support funding for research and public education regarding new and better ways to prevent and treat disease with the goal of helping people live healthier lives.