**2024 Congress of Delegates Report**

Phoenix, AZ, September 22-25

**New Hampshire Delegation**

Delegate: Louis Kazal, Jr. M.D., FAAFP (Rules Committee, Bylaws Committee, Nominating Committee)

Delegate: Hilary Alvarez, M.D.

Alternate Delegate: Marie Ramas, M.D. (New Chair of the Commission on the Health of the Public and Science!)

Alternate Delegate: Xinuo Gao, M.D.

**General**

The Congress of Delegates was structured a bit differently this year, with resolutions being filed earlier in the summer and then the four main reference committees (Advocacy, Practice Enhancement, Health of the Public and Science, and Education and Finance) receiving written testimony from not just delegates but also AAFP members and then issuing reference committee reports in September, prior to the start of COD. In past years, reference committees have received verbal testimony during COD, or during virtual reference committees in the week or two prior to the start of COD. The only resolutions that had on-site testimony were those that were extracted from the main four committees’ consent calendars, generally the more complex or controversial resolutions.

**Resolutions**
Resolutions this year included *strong* opposition to Medicare Advantage plans and to prior authorizations generally, ongoing efforts to forgive student loan debt for family physicians, further study around physician unions, when to re-evaluate requirements around in-person CME, and advocacy to CMS around expanding the primary care exception to not require preceptors to see resident patients for higher level office visit codes.

Notably for our NH interests, there were not resolutions specifically around single payer this year, though one resolution that will go to the Board requested an updated report on the main drivers of high health care costs.

New Hampshire brought forward two resolutions, which were adopted in amended form:

**Resolution No. 203** from the New Hampshire chapter entitled, “*Integrative Medicine Embedded in Family Medicine Residency Training*” was amended by the reference committee:

Substitute Resolution No. 203 to be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 203:

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create and monitor evidence-based core principles of integrative medicine as part of an AAFP residency curricular guideline

The Congress voted to adopt.

**Resolution No. 405** from the New Hampshire chapter entitled, “*Most U.S. Citizens at Risk for Air Pollution-Related Disease*” was recommended by the reference committee to not be adopted. We extracted it and offered a substitute amendment as follows:

Substitute Resolution No. 405

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) will educate its members and patients on the adverse health consequences of inhalation of idling vehicle emissions

The reference committee recommended that Substitute Resolution No. be adopted as amended and the Congress voted to adopt.

**Follow up on 2023 Report**

Action on NH resolution to try to increase the RUC’s Work RVU assignment for acupuncture codes was addressed by the RUC in 2024. Unfortunately, their recommendation to CMS was to lower overall RVU’s for medical acupuncture. The public comment period just closed, and we await their final decision to be rendered in November 2024. If allowed to stand as recommended, the new changes would go into effect January 1, 2025.

**Change**

The other new process at Congress of Delegates this year was a move away from only states (or other chapters) running their own candidates for the Board of Directors. Instead, a nominating committee (including Dr. Kazal), after extensive work, put forward a slate of six candidates for the three open positions on the Board. The goal was to pull in some candidates who might otherwise be overlooked because they may not have come up through the traditional process via state chapters. This seemed to be successful and will continue for the foreseeable future.

At the end of COD, the new President, Dr. Jen Brull, was installed, and we elected a new President-Elect, Dr. Sarah Nosal (New York, NY) and three new board members: Dr. Kathy Mueller (CT), Dr. Elizabeth Mock (Maine), and Dr. Shannon Dowler (NC). Our own Marie Ramas was announced as the Chair of the Commission on the Health of the Public and Science!

**2025**

Next year’s Congress of Delegates will be held from October 4-6 in Anaheim, California. **We encourage any NHAFP members who are interested in this policy work to consider attending as an observer!**