BOR Action on BOG Resolutions Now Available

A summary of Board of Regents actions on Board of Governors (BOG) resolutions debated at the April 29, 2023, ACP Board of Regents (BOR) Organizational Meeting is available below. Resolutions initiated by ACP members and endorsed by a chapter council and the BOG become ACP policy when adopted by the BOR.

If you have an idea you would like to suggest to ACP, consider submitting a resolution to your Governor or local ACP chapter. Visit your ACP chapter website for more information on how to contact your Governor or chapter staff about proposing a resolution.

Board of Regents Actions Taken on BOG Resolutions, April 29, 2023, Organizational Meeting

Adopted and referred for implementation: (Lines 29-77)

1. 7-S22. Addressing Incidental Findings for Optimal Utilization of Radiology Services
2. 2-S23. Developing Programs to Educate Internal Medicine Physicians in Medication Abortion
3. 5-S23. Expanding ACP’s Existing Climate Change and Health Toolkit to Aid Transitioning to Sustainable Healthcare
4. 12-S23. Updating ACP Policy to Eliminate the Ban against Blood Donation from Men Who Have Sex with Men
5. 13-S23. Acknowledging Healthcare-sponsored Voter Engagement as a Health Equity Strategy
6. 14-S23. Improving Access to Vaccines in Internal Medicine Physicians’ Offices and Other Ambulatory Arenas

Referred for Study: (Lines 79-167)

7. 3-S23. Developing Educational Resources to Train Physicians about the Evolving Threats of Climate Change on Human Health
8. 6-S23. Promoting Research on the Public Health Impact of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) in Reducing Firearm Death and Injury
10. 10-S23. Advocating Against Restrictive Clauses in Physician Employment Contracts
11. 11-S23. Advancing Transparency in Compensation to Achieve Parity Regardless of Gender and Other Personal Characteristics

The Board of Regents approved, as a Consent Calendar, the recommendations regarding the disposition of each of the following 5 resolutions recommended for adoption at the Spring 2023 Board of Governors Meeting:

BOG Recommends for Adoption/Implementation:

Resolution 5-S23. Expanding ACP’s Existing Climate Change and Health Toolkit to Aid Transitioning to Sustainable Healthcare

(RRC Referral Recommendation: Division of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy [DGAPP] staff with input from Education staff)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents will expand and update their existing climate change and health toolkit to include additional evidence, information, and resources from government agencies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations to aid practices and facilities in transitioning to environmentally sustainable healthcare.
Resolution 12-S23. Updating ACP Policy to Eliminate the Ban against Blood Donation from Men Who Have Sex with Men
(RRC Referral Recommendation: Health and Public Policy Committee [HPPC])
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents update ACP policy to oppose a categorical restriction on blood donation from men who have sex with men, in favor of a policy that supports an evidence-based, non-discriminatory approach that factors in known risk factors to determine eligibility for safe donation of blood products.

Resolution 13-S23. Acknowledging Healthcare-sponsored Voter Engagement as a Health Equity Strategy
(RRC Referral Recommendation: HPPC)
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents recognizes voting impacts health and healthcare and acknowledges and supports healthcare-sponsored voter engagement as a health equity strategy for patients and clinicians.

Resolution 14-S23. Improving Access to Vaccines in Internal Medicine Physicians' Offices and Other Ambulatory Arenas
(RRC Referral Recommendation: Medical Practice and Quality Committee)
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents work with all payors including CMS to improve timely access to vaccines in internal medicine physicians' offices and other ambulatory arenas while limiting administrative burden and ensuring sufficient reimbursement for vaccines.

Resolution 7-S22. Addressing Incidental Findings for Optimal Utilization of Radiology Services
(RRC Referral Recommendation: Population Health and Medical Science Committee)
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents work with the American College of Radiology and other key stakeholders to identify and collaborate on opportunities to improve patient care by optimizing reporting of incidental findings to communicate the clinical relevance and promote appropriate management.

Board members extracted the following resolutions from the Consent Calendar for discussion:

Resolution 2-S23. Developing Programs to Educate Internal Medicine Physicians in Medication Abortion
The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 2-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents
VOTED: to approve Resolution 2-S23 as submitted to be referred to the Education Committee for implementation
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents, along with other stakeholders, develop programs to educate Internal Medicine Physicians in medication abortion.

Resolution 3-S23. Developing Educational Resources to Train Physicians about the Evolving Threats of Climate Change on Human Health
The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 3-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents
VOTED: to refer Resolution 3-S23 for study to the Division of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy (DGAPP) staff with input from Education staff
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents will expand and develop educational resources to train physicians about the evolving threats of climate change and environmental degradation on human health through dedicated comprehensive coursework and tracks within conferences, supported by online resources such as an up-to-date compendium of clinical research, links to relevant organizations, communication tools, and lectures.

Rationale:
The Board of Regents is in support of the intent of Resolution 3-S23, yet a study would help determine what existing resources are available and what additional investment may be needed.

Resolution 6-S23. Promoting Research on the Public Health Impact of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) in Reducing Firearm Death and Injury
The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 6-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents VOTED: to refer Resolution 6-S23 for study to the Health and Public Policy Committee with input from Ethics, Professionalism and Human Rights Committee on the 2nd resolved clause and Medical Education staff on the 3rd clause

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents promote research on the public health impact of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), in particular on reducing suicide as well as intimate partner violence injury and mass shootings; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents research and make recommendations in regard to the administrative burden, legal liability concerns, and ethical concerns for physicians and other clinicians filing ERPOs; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents create concise, actionable educational resources for students, residents and practicing clinicians on effective counseling and harm reduction interventions when patients or family members express a concern that they or someone they know is at risk for firearm violence, including resources to advise on ERPOs when indicated.

Rationale:
The Board of Regents recommended referral for study to evaluate what ACP can effectively achieve since Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are enacted through state law and is a complex topic in the United States.

The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 9-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents VOTED: to refer Resolution 9-S23 for study to the Executive Office

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents update ACP’s action plan for advocating for universal insurance coverage of obesity treatment through the following actions:
1. publicly support legislation that removes statutory language prohibiting Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from considering Medicare Part D coverage of anti-obesity medications
2. advocate on a national level for expanded evidence-based and cost-effective obesity treatment coverage, including consideration as a priority theme at Leadership Day
3. collaborate with relevant stakeholders on obesity treatment advocacy
4. create a state advocacy toolkit to help members advocate for inclusion of obesity treatments in Medicaid, state employee, and other health plans
Rationale:
Members of the Board of Regents noted that the resolution hits upon an array of areas along many divisions of the College including the Executive Office where obesity guidelines are in development. The study is recommended to evaluate the strategic approach towards advocacy and research efforts. The Board requested an expedited report to be delivered at the July 2023 Board of Regents Meeting.

Resolution 10-S23. Advocating Against Restrictive Clauses in Physician Employment Contracts
The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 10-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents

VOTED: to refer Resolution 10-S23 for study to the Ethics, Professionalism and Human Rights Committee with input from Medical Practice and Quality Committee

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents revise ACP policy to oppose non-compete and financial damage clauses in physician employment contracts and advocate in support of legislation against such practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents update resources for physicians so they can negotiate employment contracts to eliminate such restrictive clauses.

Rationale:
The Board of Regents referred Resolution 10-S23 for study to evaluate current ACP policy and consider the nuances of restrictive clauses between hospitals, private practices, and nonprofit organizations.

Resolution 11-S23. Advancing Transparency in Compensation to Achieve Parity Regardless of Gender and Other Personal Characteristics
The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 11-S23 from the Consent Calendar to discuss. Following the discussion, the Board of Regents

VOTED: to refer Resolution 11-S23 for study to the Medical Practice and Quality Committee

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents model, promote, and amplify efforts using disaggregated demographic data to make compensation transparent and equitable for all employed members of our physician health care community and publicly recognize successes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocate for pay transparency at the federal and state level.

Rationale:
The Board of Regents referred Resolution 11-S23 for study to further evaluate anti-trust laws with insurance companies and how this resolution could be implemented.