Florida Chapter Services, American College of Physicians
2024 Proposed Legislative Agenda

Mission: To enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.

Medicare/Medicaid Reform

- Support: modernizing Medicare through better use of prudent purchasing authority, modernized benefits, coverage for catastrophic expenses and innovative delivery of services
- Support: Medicare as a defined benefit program
- Support: Open market for Medicare services
- Support: Medicare/Medicaid parity
- Oppose: mandatory physician participation in either Medicare or Medicaid

Promoting Primary Care

- Support: the ACP Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative
- Support: increased financial support for Internal Medicine Primary Care education
- Support: Debt Reduction/Forgiveness for Internal Medicine Primary Care trainees
- Support: developing a rational Health Care Workforce Plan

Health Care Market Reform

- Support: prohibiting insurers from denying claims they had previously authorized
- Support: allowing physicians to bring legal action against health insurers who violate the prompt pay statute
- Support: measures to prevent managed care abuses
- Oppose any pay-for-performance credentialing that is not transparent and based on quality measures
- Oppose: health plan "hold harmless" clauses
- Oppose: ER call responsibilities as a condition of hospital medical staff privileges
- Oppose: ER call responsibilities as a condition of medical licensure
- Oppose: Abusive pharmacy benefit manager practices.

Tort Reform

- Support: clear and convincing standard for medical liability cases
- Support: sovereign immunity for ER exposure
- Oppose: legislative efforts to mandate commercial insurance and/or raise mandatory coverage limits
- Oppose: legislative efforts to weaken the effectiveness of the arbitration laws

End of Life

- Support: the continued ability of terminally ill patients, their doctors, and their families to make responsible end of life decisions

Access to Care

- Support: affordable universal health care coverage and meaningful access for all Americans
- Support: guaranteed patient choice of physician and access to specialty care
- Support: programs to address disparities in health care among racial and ethnic minorities
- Support: continued ability of internists to provide pain medicine
- Support: Physician override of Step Therapy Protocols
- Support: Prohibition of “Accumulator Programs”

Medical Education

- Support: increased financial support of internal medicine graduate medical education
- Support: reduction in debt burdens carried by medical students and internal medicine trainees

Patient Safety Improvement

- Support: Confidential non-punitive reporting system for medical errors
- Support: Regulation of all non-physician owned health clinics

Scope of Practice

- Oppose: independent practice for allied health professionals;
- Oppose: inappropriate expansion of allied health care professional’s scope of practice such as prescribing authority for pharmacists, and psychologists

Regulatory Reform

- Support: reducing and eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic intrusions into the practice of medicine
- Oppose: public disclosure of complaints prior to a finding of probable cause

Medical Professionalism

- Support: Primacy of Patient Welfare, Patient Autonomy, and Social Justice
- Support: Primacy of the Patient-Physician Relationship allowing for Free Speech between Patient and Physician