

2019 Legislative Priorities, PA-ACP

Mission: To enhance quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism, primacy of patient welfare, and patient autonomy in the practice of medicine.

Improve Access to Care

- Support: affordable universal health care coverage and meaningful access for all
- Support Rural Hospital Financing Initiative*
- Support: guaranteed patient choice of physician and access to specialty care*
- Support: Adequate funding for Medicaid outpatient, primary care services*
- Support: Adequate funding for Medicaid GME programs*
- Support: Adequate funding for state Health education programs*
- Support: Medicare/Medicaid parity*

Promote Primary Care

- Support: Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative*
- Support: Direct Primary Care Contracting*
- Support: increased funds for Internal Medicine Primary Care programs
- Support: developing a rational Health Care Workforce Plan

Protect Physicians through Health Insurance Reform

- Support: Prior authorization standardization and reforms*
- Support: Require insurers to reimburse treating or consulting practitioner for diagnosis, consultation, or treatment of insured patients via telemedicine*
- Support: measures to prevent managed care abuses*
- Support: more consistent and transparent Insurer Processes*
- Support: prompt credentialing of physicians by health insurers*
- Oppose: health plan "hold harmless" clauses, "all products" and evergreen clauses
- Oppose: arbitrary reductions of physician payments by Insurers*

Promote Patient Safety

- Support: legislation to permit synchronization of medications, prescriptions*
- Support: Telemedicine providers being licensed in Pennsylvania to practice in Pennsylvania*
- Support: legislation to mandate drug price transparency*
- Support: mental health parity*
- Support: Confidential non-punitive reporting system for medical errors
- Support: Regulation of all non-physician owned health clinics
- Support: Vaccinations for public school entry*
- Support: Legislation to combat further expansion of the statewide opioid crisis.*
- Support: continued ability of internists to provide pain medicines as dictated by patient circumstances*
- Support: Education, transparency, arbitration and reasonable charges for balance billing*
- Oppose: legislation that would have the unintended consequence of needlessly creating hardships for patients already in established care plans.
- Oppose: Expansion of medical staff membership beyond physicians and dentists, except in rural, underserved hospitals
- Oppose: legislation requiring informed consent for childhood vaccinations*

Scope of Practice Issues

- Oppose: independent practice for allied health professionals beyond their education and experience*
- Oppose: inappropriate expansion of allied health care professional's scopes of practice (prescribing authority or ordering of tests by pharmacists, expanded procedures for optometrists)*

Firearms Control/Safety

- Support: allowing family and police to petition court to remove firearms from persons posing threats to themselves or others ("red flag" legislation)*
- Support: legislation closing gun show and other loopholes for background checks with firearms purchases*
- Support: legislation making accelerators illegal*

Regulatory Reform

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

Tort Reform

- Oppose Venue Rules Changes by Civil Procedure Rules Committee
- Support: immunity for physicians providing emergency care*
- Support: civil liability protection health care providers performing unpaid volunteer services*
- Support: establish a “clear and convincing” standard for medical liability cases*

Support 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

NOTE: Items marked with an asterisk (*) are items that are legislative matters and will have bill numbers as they are re-introduced.