

Florida Chapter Services, American College of Physicians

2021 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

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 Fabre doctrine
- 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

Florida Chapter Services, American College of Physicians

2021 Legislative Agenda

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