2018 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: guaranteed patient choice of physician and access to specialty care
- Support: continued ability of internists to provide pain medicines as dictated by patient circumstances
- 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: increased funds for Internal Medicine Primary Care programs
- Support: developing a rational Health Care Workforce Plan
- Support: Direct Primary Care Contracting

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
- Support: direct primary care patient contracting
- Oppose: health plan "hold harmless" clauses, “all products” and evergreen clauses
- Oppose: arbitrary reductions of physician payments by Insurers

Promote Patient Safety
- Support: Confidential non-punitive reporting system for medical errors
- Support: Regulation of all non-physician owned health clinics
- Support: Telemedicine providers being licensed in Pennsylvania to practice in Pennsylvania
- Support: mental health parity
- Support: Vaccinations for public school entry
- 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 for pharmacists, naturopaths, hospital privileges for psychologists, expanded procedures for optometrists, independent practice for CRNPs)

Regulatory Reform
- Oppose: unnecessary bureaucratic intrusions into the practice of medicine
- Oppose: legislative intrusions into the physician-patient relationship
- Oppose: public disclosure of complaints prior to a finding of probable cause

Support Tort Reform
- Support: clear and convincing standard for medical liability cases
- Support: immunity for physicians providing emergency care
- Support: legislation to provide civil liability protection for those wishing to provide unpaid volunteer services
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