



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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2019 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

STRENGTHENING PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE:

Enact a multi-year reauthorization of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program to support training for primary care physicians in our nation's rural and underserved communities.

Support enactment of legislation that increases physician workforce through increased graduate medical education funding and expanded student loan repayment programs.

Educate Congress on the importance of funding a physician-led health workforce.

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY:

Preserve essential benefits coverage, consumer and benefit protections, and ensure that currently insured individuals not unwillingly lose health insurance coverage as a result of any action or inaction by policymakers.

Promote network adequacy to ensure patients have access to covered services, including specialty and subspecialty services, and policies that prevent surprise billing for portions of services which are out of network.

Support enactment of legislation that expands access to high value services and prescription drugs that manage chronic conditions.

Support enactment of legislation that expands the coverage of Health Savings Account when partnered with high deductible health plans.

Support enactment of legislation that promote opioid alternatives for pain management, funds research and treatment, and promotes greater access to substance abuse treatment.

ENTITLEMENT REFORM:

Ensure continued and sufficient federal funding to support Medicare benefits and Medicaid expansion as currently available. Potential changes in federal policy and funding for these programs should not erode benefits, eligibility, or coverage compared to current law.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Support funding for public health and physician workforce programs in fiscal year (FY) 2020 that promote a strong physician workforce, supports for preventive services, and research to develop the new and better ways to prevent and treat disease and help people live healthier lives.

Support funding for the National Institutes of Health and other agencies that will help facilitate greater support for osteopathic physician-researchers, and help build research capacity and infrastructure at osteopathic institutions.

Support funding for research on reducing firearm violence.

REGULATORY REFORM:

Support regulatory changes to reduce administrative burden that detract from patient care and interfere with the patient-physician relationship.

Support regulatory changes that provide greater flexibility in service delivery, and ensure the transition from a volume-based to value-based health care system provides adequate reimbursement, particularly for physicians in small and independent practices.