



AAFP AMA-MSS Delegate 2024 Annual Report

AAFP Student Delegate to the American Medical Association Medical Student Section

Student

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Class of 2024

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Medical Student Section (MSS) is a branch of the American Medical Association (AMA) specifically dedicated to giving a voice to medical students and allows them to advocate for the issues that matter to medical trainees. The MSS is made up of an elected governing council, regional delegates, and specialty interest delegates who meet bi-annually for an interim meeting in the fall and an annual meeting in the spring. At these meetings, resolutions for new policy are introduced, reviewed by a reference committee, debated, and voted on by the delegates. Resolutions adopted by the MSS can then be forwarded to the AMA House of Delegate (HOD) for consideration to become national public policy.

The role of the AAFP Student Delegate in the MSS is to represent students interested in the specialty of family medicine by advocating for primary care issues. AAFP student delegates work closely together to review proposed resolutions and related published AAFP policy. During MSS assembly meetings, delegates are given the responsibility of voting and testifying on resolutions in alignment with AAFP policy. Another key role of the student delegates is to present the views of the MSS to the entirety of the AAFP delegation so that priority issues can be identified and represented in the HOD. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP student delegates to the MSS also serves as a voting delegate to the AMA HOD alongside the AAFP delegation.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting November 2023

- AAFP student delegates reviewed 60 reports and resolutions, 26 of which were extracted for discussion. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- AAFP student delegates wrote and provided testimony on resolutions related to:
 - Comprehensive Safe Firearm Storage Legislation
 - Improvement of Supplemental Nutrition Programs
- MSS delegates voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
 - End Attacks on Health and Human Rights in Palestine
- Other primary care-related resolutions for the MSS that were forwarded to the House of Delegates for Annual Meeting 2024 included:

- Improving Medigap Protections
- Advocating for Methadone Maintenance Therapy Dispensation in Community Pharmacy Settings
- Monitoring of Alternative Payment Models within Traditional Medicare
- Advocating for Health Coverage Expansion for Post Covid (Long-Covid) Conditions
- Infertility Coverage
- Medicaid & CHIP Benefit Improvements

Annual Meeting June 2023

- AAFP student delegates reviewed 33 reports and resolutions, 12 of which were extracted for discussion during Annual Meeting 2023. These items were evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- Primary care-related resolutions for the MSS that were forwarded to the House of Delegates for Interim Meeting 2024 included:
 - Access to Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Incarcerated People
 - Support of Universal School Meals for School Age Children
 - Support for Doula Care Programs
 - Opposing Private Equity Acquisitions of Healthcare Practices

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as an MSS Delegate

Sarah and Shehani were both very grateful for the opportunity to represent the field of family medicine and medical students at the AMA Interim and Annual meetings. We learned so much about the legislative process that works to ensure that the medical field continues to evolve and grow with an ever-changing world. We got the opportunity to work with, learn from and be inspired by fellow students and family physicians across the country who are passionate about improving the lives of patients and medical professionals. During our tenure, we learned how to effectively communicate and debate our ideas, compromise when met with opposition and find joy in the small wins. This experience will forever stay with us both and we encourage anyone interested in primary care advocacy to apply to this position.

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