



# Student and Resident Delegates to the AAFP COD 2024 Annual Report

---

## Student Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates

### Student Delegate



Derek Southwick, MD  
University of Washington  
School of Medicine  
Seattle, WA  
Class of 2024

### Student Delegate



Minta Ray, MD  
East Tennessee University James  
H. Quillen College of Medicine  
Johnson City, TN  
Class of 2024

### Resident Delegate



Rebecca Stoll, DO  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Rochester, MN  
PGY-2

### Resident Delegate



Aerial Petty, DO  
NYP- Columbia University  
New York, NY  
PGY-3

## Purpose & Scope of Work

We serve as the student and resident delegates within the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), the primary policy-making body within the AAFP. The COD is responsible for establishing policies that guide the direction and priorities of the AAFP covering issues ranging from family medicine training requirements to healthcare in general. Delegates also elect officers and directors of the AAFP. Duties include providing balanced representation of student and resident interests and concerns through writing resolutions, caucusing, and participating in reference committees prior to the official COD meeting where residents and students have four voting seats. Additionally, the role includes serving on the AAFP Commission on Education and two of its subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues (SRSI) and the Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum (SGC). These duties are carried out both virtually and in-person.

## Highlights of the 2023 AAFP Congress of Delegates (Chicago, IL)

The 2023 Congress of Delegates Meeting took place October 25-27, 2023 in Chicago, IL. There were over 230 delegates and alternate delegates from across the country in attendance to debate and vote on 50 resolutions. There were resolutions on topics ranging from physician billing and coding to access to abortion care, but the two most notable themes of the congress were updating the

nomination process for AAFP Board of Directors elections and ensuring the future scope of Family Medicine practice, especially as it pertains to obstetric care.

### ***Nomination Process***

Prior to the 2023 COD, there were concerns regarding the equity of the nomination process for elected leadership to the AAFP Board of Directors (and presidency). Candidates for the Board of Directors and Presidency were endorsed by state AFP chapters, which could result in concentration of campaign resources to a few candidates, rather than allowing a more diverse pool of candidates to run for elected leadership positions.

After a lengthy discussion, the 2023 COD voted to implement a centralized nominating committee to select and nominate candidates for AAFP Board of Directors positions rather than state chapters. This change was made with the intention of ensuring a more diverse slate of candidates to choose from who can meet the needs of the organization over time. With the new process, each candidate receives equal campaign assistance from the AAFP. Floor nominations at the COD will also be allowed to ensure state chapters still have a chance to put forth their own candidates in addition to those selected by the nominating committee.

The composition of the nominating committee will be chaired by a former AAFP officer appointed by AAFP Board chair and speaker. The chair will appoint three voting members from each of the following four groups:

- Past and current COD delegates/alternates
- Past AAFP directors
- At-large members nominated by state chapters
- Members of the National Conference of Constituency Leaders Advisory Groups (from previous three years)

Voting members will serve three-year terms and be joined by several non-voting committee members including AAFP Board chair, resident member of the Board, and chair of the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness.

Ultimately, these changes are designed to eliminate inconsistencies, promote diversity, and ensure strong leadership within the AAFP for the future of Family Medicine.

### ***Scope of Practice***

There was plentiful testimony from the floor at the 2023 Congress of Delegates regarding barriers to practicing full spectrum family medicine, especially obstetrics. Discussion occurred regarding unilateral advocacy from the AAFP for obstetric hospital privileges from Family Medicine physicians as well as increasing and/or eliminating obstetric requirements in Family Medicine residencies. Resolution 303 was amended and adopted as follows:

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate that all hospitals grant privileges for trained family physicians to perform vaginal and or Caesarian deliveries, and be if further RESOLVED: That the American Academy of Family Physicians strongly reaffirm the importance of obstetrical care as an essential aspect of family medicine residency training and work with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to ensure a minimum number of hours of obstetrical care and hands-on deliveries that is meaningful to the care of pregnant patients.

## **Subcommittee Work**

As resident and student delegates we are also heavily involved in the Commission on Education. Within this commission we also serve on several subcommittees including the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues and the Subcommittee on Graduate Education. In addition, several of us have worked on various working groups, taking extra time out to focus on specific issues we know are important for residents and students.

Within the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues (SRSI) we had the privilege of working on updating many policies that we know from our experience at Student and Resident Congresses matter to learners in family medicine. For example, we had the opportunity to advocate for our international medical graduates, hoping to work towards making applying to residencies within the U.S. easier. In addition, we worked with the other commission members on updating policies containing the definition of Family Medicine as used by the AAFP in it's advocacy work as well as the policy explaining the role of Family Medicine.

On the Subcommittee on Graduate Education we have the privilege of partnering with residency programs to help update curriculum guidelines that are utilized by all Family Medicine residencies.

Another highlight would be working on policies that strengthen the National Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Network as well as participating in discussion groups about how we can continue to advocate to grow and strengthen our specialty.

## **Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving**

*Araminta Ray:* I have had the privilege of growing both personally and professionally through my time serving as a student delegate and commission member. Professionally, I have improved my understanding and proficiency in parliamentary procedure and have a greater appreciation for its ability to elevate the voices of all perspectives in creating policy that shapes the work of Family Medicine. I have also gained a deeper understanding of the processes and work of the American Academy of Family Physicians and am happy to share the insight I have gained with others interested in serving at the national level. Personally, I have met numerous peers and mentors who are equally passionate about supporting the AAFP in its work to provide a more just and equitable healthcare system for all patients. I have also grown in my confidence to effectively use my voice in discussions that shape the work that impacts students, residents, practicing physicians, and patients alike.

*Derek Southwick:* Serving as a Student Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates was an invaluable experience that taught me the significance of healthcare advocacy, the power of networking, and the importance of effective leadership. Witnessing the policy-making process firsthand underscored the impact of informed advocacy. Engaging with seasoned professionals and fellow delegates broadened my understanding and expanded my professional network. Presenting ideas and negotiating resolutions honed my communication and leadership skills. This experience deepened my commitment to family medicine and equipped me with essential skills for my future career in healthcare. I would highly recommend anyone thinking about running for leadership to do it! It has been such a privilege and honor to represent medical students across the nation.

*Becca Stoll:* I may be biased but I truly believe that serving as a delegate to the Congress of Delegates, representing our student and resident peers, is the most important leadership role for learners within the AAFP. I have learned so much about the importance of organized medicine and health policy. I was able to practice my advocacy skills to fight for policies that our caucus believed were important for those we represent. It has been my privilege to represent the residents and I would encourage all of you to get involved!

Aerial Petty: Being able to hold this position, a position that I was elected into by my peers, has been one of the most amazing and appreciated parts of my residency experience. Through my role as a resident delegate to the Congress of Delegates, I have learned something that I believe that the AAFP truly seeks to foster through each one of its members- the potential of the family medicine connection. This role has provided me with the perspective and experience necessary to continue my work in health policy and advocacy for both family medicine physicians and the communities that we serve. It has allowed me a glimpse into the professions of those who have come before me and those who have been dedicating their careers to advocating for our patients since before I ever started medical school. The support and mentorship that I have gained have been truly awe inspiring, and I leave this role hoping that those who now fill the space that Becca and I leave will know just how special an opportunity it is to be trusted with the responsibility of representing the family medicine resident voice and just how much we too now support them.