



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President-elect  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President-elect Trump:

The American Academy of Family Physicians looks forward to working closely with your new Administration and the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure that all Americans have access to high-quality, efficient health care. The transition in governance comes in the midst of an ongoing health system change that will determine whether patients have access to high quality, affordable health care in the future.

Primary care – and particularly family medicine – is foundational to continued progress in reforming the health care system. The complexity of care provided by family physicians is unparalleled in medicine. Research at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care shows that patients who have several health concerns seek the care of their family physician over subspecialists. The data also demonstrate that family physicians address more diagnoses and treatment plans per visit than subspecialists. Those findings heighten the importance of implementing policies that value primary medical care and build the primary care physician workforce.

The policies we have identified here will enable the American people to thrive. They will ensure continued progress toward health care for all, supported by a payment system that rewards value over volume of services, that promotes prevention and wellness, that protects patients from financial barriers to needed services, and that builds a primary care physician workforce that can meet the growing demand for care. Family physicians need your administration to make these a priority as we reform and improve America's health care system.

### Health Care For All

- Pursue policies that make affordable health care insurance available for all Americans.
- Ensure access to health care for low-income individuals and families through safety-net programs.
- Advocate for the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

### Delivery System & Payment Reform

- Promote delivery system and payment reforms that place a greater emphasis on the value of first contact, comprehensive, continuous, and coordinated primary care to individuals, payers, and society by ensuring that payment policies, in all health care programs, appropriately value family medicine and primary care.

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- Ensure that the *Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act* (MACRA) is implemented in a manner that facilitates success among all family physicians, regardless of practice size or location. A special degree of attention and support must be paid to independent solo and small group practices in all geographic areas.
- Reduce the administrative burden by improving the functionality of EMRs, reducing the use of prior authorization and appropriate use programs, reducing needless documentation requirements, and streamlining workflow processes to ensure that patient care remains the top priority for family physicians.

### **Health Care Affordability**

- Ensure that patients do not face financial obstacles to securing primary and preventive care, especially those individuals who have high-deductible health plans.
- Improve access to pharmaceutical and biologic treatments by reducing individual's financial burden in obtaining these treatments.
- Advocate for data democratization whereby health care quality and cost data is readily available to patients and their primary care physicians.

### **Primary Care Workforce**

- Establish a national workforce strategy that promotes the value of primary care as inherently fundamental to the health of individuals and populations; as well as a high-functioning and efficient health care system.
- Reform the nation's graduate medical education system to place greater emphasis on training the workforce of the future in the most appropriate care settings and creating greater accountability for teaching institutions.
- Build on the successful Teaching Health Center program by expanding the program to a greater number of communities.

### **Promote Prevention & Wellness**

- Promote health equity by advancing the value of incorporating social determinants of health in all health care delivery systems.
- Collaborate with the public health community to promote prevention and wellness programs that improve well-being and decrease the onset of disease.
- Increase vaccination rates for children and adults by improving access to vaccines for family medicine practices, reforming the vaccine supply chain and creating payment policies that appropriately promote the delivery of vaccines, as appropriate, to all patients.

Again, congratulations on your election as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. The AAFP and its more than 124,900 family physicians and medical student members are eager to partner with you and your Administration to identify and implement policies that improve people's lives through an accessible, high-quality, efficient, and diverse health care system. I and our members stand ready to do the important and hard work necessary to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John S. Meigs, Jr., MD'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small 'MS' at the end.

John S. Meigs, Jr., MD  
President