

2026 MAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Days Recap

More than 20 physicians, residents, and medical students gathered in Augusta on February 18–19, 2026, for this year's MAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Days, a two-day program focused on elevating the voice of family medicine across Maine.

The event began Wednesday evening with an advocacy training session and welcome dinner at Cushnoc Brewing Co., where participants connected over conversation before engaging in practical skills training led by Dr. Patrick Connolly and Dr. Florence Dasrath. The session covered effective strategies for speaking with legislators, what to expect at the State House, and key state and federal policy issues shaping family medicine.

On Thursday, attendees headed to the State House for a full day of advocacy. The morning opened with remarks from Rep. Sam Zager, MD, who emphasized the vital role physicians play in shaping health policy. Participants then spent time in the Hall of Flags meeting legislators, observing House and Senate sessions, and joining small-group discussions with lawmakers.

During lunch, policy experts Anne Sedlack, Esq., MSW, and Meghan Garrett-Reed offered updates on priority legislation and ongoing efforts to strengthen primary care and improve healthcare affordability statewide. The afternoon provided optional opportunities to observe committee hearings, offer testimony, and engage in guided discussions with Advocacy Committee leaders.

This year's Advocacy Days highlighted the strength of collective action, giving attendees the tools, confidence, and real-world experience needed to effectively advocate for their patients, their communities, and the future of family medicine in Maine.