

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
77th ANNUAL MEETING
April 13, 2024
Resolution #1**

Introduced by: Steven A. Wahls, MD, FAAFP

Subject: OAFP Position on Physician Rights of Conscience

1 **WHEREAS**, the AAFP policy statement entitled “Physician and Patient Relationships,
2 Professional Responsibility,”¹ states that “no physician shall be compelled to prescribe any
3 treatment or perform any act which violates his/her good judgement or personally held moral
4 principles,” and they “may withdraw from the case so long as adequate notice is given to enable
5 the patient to engage the services of another physician,” and

6 **WHEREAS**, Federal statutes (42 U.S.C. 300a-7(d))² protect health care provider conscience
7 rights and prohibit recipients of certain federal funds from discriminating against health care
8 providers who refuse to participate in certain services based on moral objections or religious
9 beliefs, and

10 **WHEREAS**, certain states have considered legislation that would repeal rights of conscience
11 protections, and

12 **WHEREAS**, a number of Family Physicians have reported that they choose not to belong to OAFP
13 because they feel excluded by current policy and advocacy efforts of the OAFP, NOW
14 THEREFORE BE IT

15 **RESOLVED**, that Oregon Academy of Family Physicians affirms the Right of Conscience of
16 members and other clinicians who choose, based on scientific, ethical, moral or religious
17 grounds, to abstain from participating in a given path of care without threat of legal or civil
18 action.

¹ <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/physician-patient-relationships.html>

² <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/civilrights/understanding/ConscienceProtect/42usc300a7.pdf>