

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
79th ANNUAL MEETING
May 2, 2026
Sunriver, Oregon**

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mission Statement: The OAFP exists to support family physicians in their pursuit of optimal health for the people of Oregon.

The Commission on External Affairs (EAC) has met monthly in the interim between legislative sessions and every other week during the legislative session. Given the OAFP's strategic focus on calling more attention to the challenges that beset primary care, it has been a busy year.

Since the last annual meeting, successes have included:

- Continued media engagement including (among several other placements and interviews):
 - Willamette Week coverage of changes to the primary care clinic community; p-Ed in OAFP submitted neutral comments on the proposed OAFP and Legacy Health merger, advocating for a focus on primary care for the resulting organization; this led directly to three media requests and subsequent articles in the Oregonian, Portland Business Journal, and Lund report about aspects of the primary care system
 - February 19th op-ed from Betsy Boyd-Flynn on the closure of her long-time family medicine clinic in the *Lund Report*
- Continued organizing of allies interested in improving the primary care environment in Oregon,
- Appointment of Family Medicine champions and allies to the new Primary Care Strategy Committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board
- Helping to organize opposition to the cut to funding for the CCO Quality Incentive Pool funds, which are a de facto cut to primary care; we also helped to organize pleas to the Oregon Health Authority to reduce the number of quality measures required by the Metrics & Scoring committee, commensurate with the loss of funding.
- Placing more family physicians and advocates in more in state-level health policymaking seats, including the Universal Health Plan Governing Board and subcommittees, the Medicaid Advisory Committee, the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, among others
- Collecting allies and hosting several meetings of stakeholders to work on primary care policy in service of the OAFP Strategic Plan

- Consulting with national experts including Erin Fuse-Brown and Liz McCuskey to develop background documents supporting the idea of a Primary Care Trust as an interim step toward single payer
- Close collaboration with former Governor John Kitzhaber, MD, on recommendations for Governor Kotek related to stabilizing and supporting primary care along with the rest of the health care system
- Influencing and helping populate panels on primary care topics through the *Oregon Health Forum*, including the April X panel that featured OAFP Board member Mark Meyers, MD, and the April 7 panel that featured Liz Powers, Brian Park, and Nic Powers, and was moderated by Betsy Boyd-Flynn
- Advancing our work to cultivate primary care champions in the legislature
 - Meeting with Senator Reynolds to discuss creating a formal Primary Care Caucus
 - Held an event on January 14th with predominantly rural legislators to talk about primary care issues in their districts
 - Continued work to bring attention to the need to support Oregon’s Family Medicine residencies with funding for ORCA-FM.
- Supporting ORCA-FM’s Policy Scholars program for the sixth year in a row
- Engaged EAC members to testify in support of numerous bills during the 2026 short legislative session:
 - HB 4040: A Healthcare Omnibus bill that included a provision to repeal provider assignment/attribution by insurers (Dr. Brian Frank testified in opposition to this provision.)
 - SB 1570: legislation strengthening and clarifying protections for patients and providers from law enforcement actions in health care settings (led by Dr. Eva Galvez)
 - HB 4107: Legislation defining and initiating early oversight for Oregon urgent care clinics
 - HCR 202, a concurrent resolution led by former Gov. Kitzhaber, to establish a renewed vision for health care access and affordability in Oregon. (Betsy Boyd Flynn testified in support of HCR 202.)

Things we’re tracking:

Problem: Our workforce is wobbling. There’s a mismatch between patient access to primary care and state estimates of capacity. Family medicine residency programs continue to need support through ORCA-FM.

Action: We continued to advance legislation to secure ORCA-FM funding; we are also actively working with the new Primary Care Strategy Committee to improve Oregon’s data about our primary care workforce; better enumeration and capacity estimates will

help better target workforce support interventions. It will also help ensure that rural and frontier communities that need the support of health services loan forgiveness programs will stay eligible for them.

Problem: Continued consolidation clinical facilities and pressure on independent practices from administrative complexity

Action: We were successful in helping pass SB 951 in 2025, the strongest Corporate Practice of Medicine bill in the country, and a bill to advance prior authorization reform. For 2027 our legislative agenda will look at strengthening the market oversight capacity of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, so that meaningful alignment in payment models and administrative processes can take place.

Problem: With continued turnover in the legislature forecasted for 2026, we continue to build relationships with new legislators and

Action: We have positioned the OAFP as the go-to organization to provide advice and information about the value and fragility of primary care, and are driving conversations, both public and private, to call attention to the urgent need to reduce administrative demands on primary care clinics and working with multiple legislators to offer expertise

Opportunity: There are multiple national and regional groups working on primary care payment reform, investment and measurement, and other challenges. On behalf of the OAFP, Betsy Boyd-Flynn is participating in:

- Convening, along with Brian Frank and Tony Germann, primary care stakeholders on behalf of Governor Kitzhaber to create recommendations for the next three biennia
- The Primary Care Information Network (Convened by the Primary Care Development Corporation)
- A still-forming learning collaborative conceived by the Milbank Memorial Fund to create a useful market scan of the primary care landscape.
- A newly-launched AAFP Primary Care Investment & Spending Measurement Initiative
- A new collaborative created by Kevin Grumbach, MD, specifically focused on the creation and implementation of policy related to primary care trust concepts

What we do:

- Advise and direct staff in collaboration with the executive committee with prioritizing collaboration opportunities with external organizations, including task forces, workgroups, and coalitions
- Review and consider legislation and rulemaking efforts at the state level, and where

necessary, at the national level in coordination with the AAFP.

- Help to shape the OAFP legislative agenda and long-term policy strategy in alignment with the OAFP strategic plan
- Assist members with the drafting and submission of resolutions for the Congress of Members.
- Help to recruit and support additional members to participate in the OAFP Legislative Day at the Capitol.

We say this every year, but it's still true.

We are actively seeking new members of the committee. We encourage members who want to track our advocacy updates to sign up for the Advocacy Update; during legislative sessions, OAFP staff send these updates weekly with a recap of developments related to key bills of interest to OAFP.

Contact Betsy (bbf@oafp.org) or Brian Frank if you'd like to learn more about the committee or to be added to the list.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Frank, MD
Chair, Commission on External Affairs
Iris Maria Chavez
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