

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
76th ANNUAL MEETING
April 15, 2023
Gleneden Beach, 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 has met monthly in the interim between legislative sessions and meets every other week during the long legislative session.

As a reminder, the Commission is charged with the following:

- Advise and direct staff with prioritizing opportunities for collaboration 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 strategy at the direction of the Board.
- 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.

Our Lobby Day in March was a great event. We welcomed more than 40 members from around the state, including several residents, to Salem. We heard from Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee, about priority bills, and from Katy King, who provides advocacy for several other specialty societies. The morning also included a talk from Dr. John Santa, who was the co-chair of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care, about Senate Bill 770, which would create a public corporation to plan for a state-based single-payer health care system.

The legislation is a key area of focus for many policy watchers in Oregon. It has gone through several amendments and is now SB 1089. Dr. Tony Germann participated in the Task Force, and provided regular updates to the Commission on External Affairs. OAFP has adopted policy supporting a state-based single-payer system. The Commission on External Affairs is considering how best to support the legislation.

Our priority bill (SB 490) seeks state funding for the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine. Since OAFP launched the project in 2019, it has been sustained by a combination of grants and program fees from the residency sites. That income has covered

staff and consulting support, as well as marketing assistance for the programs. With expanded funding from the State, the scope and impact of ORCA-FM could increase dramatically. **Right now is a key time to contact legislators and ask them to place SB 490 on their funding priority list.** Contact Betsy or Iris Maria to learn more about how to get involved.

The legislative session will last through at least June 15. One useful legacy of the pandemic is that all hearings are conducted such that remote testimony is possible. The visual impact of a physician speaking to legislators from an exam room is difficult to overstate. When you share your expertise and tell stories about your patients or your own experience, you give color to what can be difficult-to-understand statistics.

The Commission continues to focus on payment reform, universal access to care, incentives to recruit and retain workforce in rural and underserved communities, and provider satisfaction initiatives.

We are actively seeking new members of the committee and 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 or Brian Frank if you'd like to learn more about the committee or to be added to the list. A complete end-of-session report will be available on the OAFP website under the "Advocacy" menu.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Frank, MD and Evan Saulino, MD
Chairs, Commission on External Affairs
Iris Maria Chavez
OAFP Government Affairs