

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
77th ANNUAL MEETING
April 13, 2024
Portland, 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 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.

Since the last annual meeting, successes have included:

- Passage of Senate Bill 490, our priority legislation, which allocated \$1.5 million dollars to the OAFP to support the expansion of our Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine, or ORCA-FM.
- Continued participation of EAC members in state-level health policy committees, including the appointment of Dr. Antonio German, an EAC member, to the Oregon Health Policy Board.
- Increased outreach to family medicine residents including a “Health Policy 101” didactic session for the OHSU FM residency with Iris Maria Chavez and Dr. Brian Frank.
- Ongoing work to develop a coalition around a legislative concept we developed in 2023 to create an Office of Healthcare Affordability, with a goal of introducing it during the 2025 long session.

Things we’re tracking:

Problem: Increasing consolidation and “market capture” of clinical facilities by private-equity firms.

Action: Our priority bill for the 2024 legislative session was HB 4130, which would have restricted corporate involvement in the ownership and operation of medical practices. The bill did not pass, but we continue to work with the bill's key sponsor, House Speaker Rep Ben Bowman to refine and build support for the bill in the 2025 legislative session.

Problem: A lack of inclusion by state government of primary care in implementing the 1115 Medicaid waiver and the Governor's key priorities of houselessness and of substance use disorder.

Action: The OAFP team is raising this issue in conversations with policymakers and legislators and are supporting family physicians who want more experience treating patients with substance use disorders through trainings and learning collaboratives.

Problem: The latest Primary Care Spending reports indicate declining investment in primary care at the same time that Oregon is stepping up reporting on cost growth.

Action: We are working with other stakeholders to reexamine how we study, report on, and advocate primary care investment.

Problem: Oregon's work on health care cost growth containment continues, and clinics are beginning to receive reports.

Action: We are tracking the rulemaking related to the assessment of penalties, and ensuring that the reports are accurate and not skewed by outlier cases, or by clinics providing more comprehensive care for substance use disorder.

On the horizon:

- Working with Senator Steiner on strategies to obtain continued funding for ORCA-FM in the 2025 legislative session.

Expanding our influence by building new relationships with legislators around the state.

[Contact Betsy or Iris Maria to learn more about how to get involved as a **Key Contact**]

- A continued focus on payment reform, universal access to care, incentives to recruit and retain workforce in rural and underserved communities, and provider satisfaction.

We say this every year, but it's still true. **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 is available on the OAFP website under the "Advocacy" menu.

Respectfully submitted,
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Chair, Commission on External Affairs
Iris Maria Chavez
OAFP Government Affairs