OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
72nd ANNUAL MEETING
May 4, 2019
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

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 external affairs commission had a busy “relaunch” year. In September 2018 members for the External Affairs commission were appointed, and a charter was drafted and approved by the OAFP Board of Directors at its November Meeting. The group met a handful of times before the 2019 Legislative session began, and has been meeting by teleconference bi-weekly during the session to help guide the OAFP’s advocacy efforts.

From our charter, the Commission on External Affairs 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.

Over the last several months we have been meeting bi-weekly to discuss Oregon’s current legislative session and potential legislation that impacts family physicians and their patients. Through our lobbyist, Sam Barber, we have been tracking dozens of bills that affect either family physicians or the health of our patients. As a group, our chief task is to offer direction regarding whether to support, oppose or remain neutral on these bills.

We had a wonderfully successful legislative day on March 4, when 47 physician, resident and medical students in attendance, and had 29 constituent meetings. OAFP members spoke in support of our bill on payment reform (SB 765), which passed out of the Senate unanimously, and is now in the House, but we were also able to speak to Representatives and Senators about vaccines, tobacco, vaping, and several other health related topics.

Finally, the Commission has attempted to improve our resolution submission process. In all, five resolutions were submitted to the commission on external affairs for editing and suggestion in March. You should see several polished and professional resolutions at our annual meeting as a result of this pre-submission.

We continue to look for new ways to engage our members, both through ongoing work with the Academy and with short term, specific projects. Specifically, we are interested in...
increasing access to political advocacy for the busy clinician, trying to make participation as simple as possible.

If you would like to become more active in policy matters with the OAFP, please contact our Executive Director, Betsy Boyd Flynn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stewart Decker, MD
Chair, Commission for External Affairs