Public Policy Update
Overview

2018 Issue Summaries

2019 Issues

2019 Environment
• **$2B Increase in FY 2019 NIH Budget (5.3%) – total $39.3B**
  ▪ 4\textsuperscript{th} consecutive year real budget boost; 30% combined increase
  ▪ Funding enacted on schedule, 1\textsuperscript{st} time in 22 years (30% total)

• **Additional Budget Increases**
  ▪ 7.9% increase for VA Research - total budget of $718 million
  ▪ 1.2% increase for AHRQ - total budget of $338 million

• **Fetal Tissue Research Policy Preserved**
• **GME Bills:**
  - Flagship GME Cap Bills: 129 co-sponsors in House; 17 in Senate
  - Opioid GME Cap Bills: Bipartisan, introduced

• **HRSA Workforce:** Preserved in FY 2019 budget - $642 million

• **Veterans CHOICE Act:** Academic affiliations preserved

• **Opioid Legislation:** No Curricula Dictates
2018
Patient Care Issues

• **$4B Medicaid DSH Cuts:** Delayed for FYs 2018 - 2019

• **CHIP:** Reauthorized for 10 Years

• **340B:** Good Court Decision but Appealed; No “Bad” Bills Passed

• **Medicare Rules:**
  - **E&M Code Collapse:** Progress Addressing Concerns
  - **Outpatient Payment Cuts:** Lack of Progress Leads to Lawsuit
All In a Year’s Work
Lobbying Interactions in 2018

• 2,000+ Informal Contacts with Policy Makers, Staff
• 300+ Formal Congressional / Executive Branch Meetings
• 100+ Written Communications to Hill, Administration
  ▪ Testimonies to Congressional Committees
  ▪ Letters to Members of Congress
  ▪ Comment Letters to Federal Agencies
• 100+ Advocacy-Related Press Requests and Statements
2019 Advocacy Issues

- Lift Budget Caps
- Increase NIH Budget
- Reauthorize PCORI
- Prevent Medicaid DSH Cuts

- Preserve, Increase HRSA Workforce Programs
- Protect 340B Program
- Lift Medicare GME Caps
- Strengthen ACA
2019 Additional Issues

- Drug Pricing
- Surprise Billing / Price Transparency
- Medicare Outpatient Payment
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity
- Lab-Developed Tests
- Tax-Exempt Status
- Higher Education
- Infrastructure?
- Medicare for All?
Focus on Medicare
GME Policy

• “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019”
  ▪ Bill Purpose: Lift the Medicare GME Cap 3,000 Slots / Year / 5 Years
  ▪ S. 348: Sens. Menendez (D-NJ), Boozman (R-AR), Schumer (D-NY)
  ▪ H.R. 1763: Reps. Sewell (D-AL), Katko (R-NY)

• “Opioid Workforce Act of 2019”
  ▪ Bill Purpose: Lift Medicare GME Cap 500 Slots / Year / 2 Years
  ▪ Senate, House: Bipartisan Bills Expected Soon
President’s FY 2020
Budget Request

Proposes to:

• Cut Research Funding for NIH, VA, AHRQ
• Block-Grant GME, Cut HRSA Workforce
• Prolong Medicaid DSH Cuts, Block-Grant Medicaid
• Erode 340B Drug Pricing Program
• Implement Multiple Medicare Rule Changes

AAMC, Coalitions Oppose Cuts, Advocate Stronger Programs
2019 Environment
Divided Government

Slim House Democratic Majority: 235 Ds vs. 199 Rs
Slim Senate Republican Majority: 53 Rs vs. 45 Ds, 2 Is
Veto Override: 2/3 Majorities in Both

Bipartisanship Is the Only Way to Advance Policy
Hill, Presidential Campaigns Already Starting

- 22 Republican Senators Up for Re-election
- 12 Democratic Senators Are Also Up for Re-election
- 19 Candidates Running for President, including the President plus 6 Current Senators and 3 Current Representatives

Every Issue Has Potential Election Implications
AAMC Advocacy
Many Shapes, Many Forms

• **Formal Coalitions**: E.g., Ad Hoc Coalition for Medical Research

• **Informal Coalitions**: E.g., Hospital Groups Working Together on 340B

• **Grassroots Advocacy**: E.g., AAMC Action Campaigns

• **Social Media**: E.g., Tweeting AAMC Points of View during Hill Hearings
AAMC Is a Leader of Major Coalitions Advocating Medicine

GME Advocacy Coalition Urges Co-sponsorship of the “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019:” S. 348 and H.R. 1763
Communicating Academic Medicine’s Value

Opioid Epidemic

You have up to 20% higher odds of survival if treated at a teaching hospital.

Patients with Medical Conditions:
- Sickest: 8% higher odds of survival
- Moderately sick: 15% higher odds of survival
- Healthiest: 20% higher odds of survival

Economic Impact

Academic Medicine’s Pursuit of Its Missions Also Has Major Economic Impact Nationwide

Contributes more than $562 billion to the U.S. economy

Direct 2.7 million

Represents about 3.1% GDP, 3.3% of healthcare spending

340B Program

Free or Discounted Drugs
Healthier Communities
How CFAS Members Can Engage in Advocacy that Supports Academic Medicine

• Join AAMCAction
• Collaborate with GRRs
• Support Coalition Advocacy
• Support Sign-on Letters
• Identify “Grasstops” Relationships
• Develop Facts and Stories
AAMC Action
JOIN US: https://action.aamc.org/faculty-action

Who We Are:
We are a community of students, residents, researchers, faculty members, and others in academic medicine who advocate on behalf of patients and their providers.

What We Fight for:
• Preventing an impending doctor shortage
• Ensuring teaching hospitals can continue to provide quality care for all patients
• Enable doctors to go into public service
• Protecting, expanding NIH research

Our Impact:
- Taken: 60,000 Actions
- Written: 21,000 Letters to Congress
- Signed: 16,000 Petitions
Executive Leadership and Grasstops Advocacy

Erica Froyd, Senior Director
Advocacy and Engagement

• Joined AAMC in January
• Former AAMC Gov’t. Relations Director
• Public Policy Advocacy Consultant
• Health, Research Policy Expert
Our Best Advocacy

Your Amazing Work Every Day to Fulfill Academic Medicine’s Missions