



# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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## **Pa. family physicians release 2019-20 legislative agenda**

*(HARRISBURG, Pa. Dec. 10, 2018)* The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) is releasing its 2019-20 state legislative agenda, a list of advocacy priorities important to family physicians and patients across Pennsylvania for the upcoming legislative session.

Please see this list of legislative priorities below; PAFP members will have an opportunity to rank the priorities in order of importance to fine-tune how the PAFP executes its advocacy strategy over the legislative session.

### Nurse Practitioner Independence

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are integral, valuable members of the health care team, held in the highest regard by family physicians. However patients are best served when a physician-led, highly coordinated health care team provides care. Therefore, the PAFP opposes legislation that would expand their scope of practice and eliminate collaborative agreements.

### Prior Authorization Reform

Prior authorizations have become significantly burdensome to family physicians, and more importantly result in delays and jeopardized quality care to patients. The PAFP supports reforms that would maximize electronic communications for authorizations as well as adverse determinations, and define consistent response times for authorizations, rejections, appeals, and external utilization review.

### Direct Primary Care Authorizing Legislation

DPC is a model of care outside the bounds of health insurance and an emerging option for patients and physicians. The PAFP supports legislation that specifies direct primary care agreements are not insurance and therefore not subject to insurance laws or regulations.

### Health Insurer Credentialing Reform

Delays in credentialing of new physicians or existing physicians changing practices create undo hardships most notably on the communities they serve. The PAFP supports legislation that would standardize the credentialing form and set processing standards.

### Restrictive Covenants

In this age of health system consolidations, PAFP supports legislation limiting restrictive covenants in health care practitioner employment agreements.

Buprenorphine Medically Assisted Treatment Act

Access to care for patients suffering from substance abuse disorder is critical, and state regulation could significantly jeopardize access to office based opioid treatment (OBOT). The PAFP opposes legislation that would require prescribers of Buprenorphine to be licensed by the state and pay any state licensing fee.

POLST Legislation

Working with the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the PAFP supports updating and revising Pennsylvania law to include codification of Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) to be used by medical professionals across all health care settings for patients who voluntarily wish to execute a POLST order.

Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers

The PAFP supports legislation that requires employers to provide employees time to express breast milk in a sanitary environment for her nursing child.

PAFP's State Legislative Agenda is crafted through the Government and Practice Advocacy Committee with position decisions made by the Board of Directors.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure physician-coordinated, personalized, and comprehensive quality health care for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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