

Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science

2017 Congress of Delegates of the American Academy of Family Physicians, San Antonio, TX Delegate, Polina Sayess, M.D.

Resolution no. 401 “Military Tobacco 21”

Outcome: Substitute Adopted.

This resolution from Minnesota Chapter proposed that the AAFP adopt a policy position and advocate that the United States Congress pass a law that makes it illegal for military commissaries to sell tobacco products to those under 21.

Resolution no. 402 “Raising the Legal Age for Purchasing Tobacco Products to 21”

Outcome: Reaffirmed as current policy/ currently being addressed.

This resolution from Oregon Chapter proposed that the AAFP support raising the legal minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21.

Resolution no. 403 “Sugar-Sweetened Beverages”

Outcome: Reaffirmed as current policy/ currently being addressed.

This resolution from Oregon Chapter asked that the AAFP create and make available resources for use by chapters to make advocacy concerning sugar-sweetened beverage policy easier. The AAFP’s Center for State Policy has a State Legislative Tracker which allows chapters and interested members to track by legislative topic. There is an individual legislative report titled, “Public Health – Obesity.” Chapters can sign up to receive tracking reports for this topic. Additionally, the Center maintains the Model Legislation Library, which is comprised of model legislation that is authored by various organizations to establish an example for the creation of state laws regarding a specific policy issue. Model legislation provides a starting point and can be altered. Currently, there are six pieces of model legislation regarding this topic.

Resolution no. 404 “Integrating Public Health and Family Medicine”

Outcome: Reaffirmed as current policy/ currently being addressed.

This resolution from Oregon Chapter asked that the AAFP work with organizations integrating public health and family medicine to investigate partnership opportunities for greater physician involvement or opportunity in community development endeavors. In 2013 the AAFP established the Working Group on Primary Care and Public Health Integration.

Resolution no. 405 “Screening, Intervening, and Advocating to Address Food Insecurity”

Outcome: Reaffirmed as current policy/ currently being addressed.

This resolution from New York presented 3 proposals. First, that the AAFP support efforts to screen patients for food insecurity, using tools like the validated Hunger Vital Sign™, and connect patients to federal nutrition programs and resources. Second, that the AAFP advocate for a strong and effective national nutrition safety net for vulnerable, low-income individuals by protecting and defending the federal nutrition programs from block grants, structural changes,

and budget cuts, and by ensuring all people in the U.S. have access to the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives. Lastly, that the AAFP issue a policy statement to educate members on the health implications of food insecurity, health benefits of the federal nutrition programs, promising interventions to address food insecurity in health care settings, and advocacy opportunities to address food insecurity at the local, state, and national level.

The AAFP has been engaged with Children's Health Watch, a nonpartisan network of physicians, researchers, and policy experts, which developed the Hunger Vital Sign™ screening tool to identify food insecurity in children.

Resolution no. 406 “Violence in Health Care”

Outcome: Substitute Adopted.

The substitute resolution from Colorado and Texas tasked the AAFP to survey family physicians to characterize and quantify the incidence of violence against family physicians in the workplace and elsewhere related to their practice, and to create and promote an educational toolkit to provide student, residents, practicing physicians, and their staff/nurses with resources, such as active shooter training, metal detector promotion, and de-escalation training.

Resolution no. 407 “Support Housing Access for All”

Outcome: Adopted.

This resolution from Washington Chapter proposed that the AAFP advocate for policies supporting “Housing First” approaches (such as permanent housing with community-based, integrated treatment, rehabilitation and support services), including for policies that encourage Medicaid agencies and Medicaid health plans to use funds for such approaches. “Housing First” provides both long-term rental assistance and supportive services. <http://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf>(endhomelessness.org)

Resolution no. 408 “Treating Substance Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons”

Outcome: Substitute Adopted.

This resolution from the Washington Chapter had 3 proposals. First, that the AAFP advocate for legislation, standards, policies and funding that increase access to evidence-based treatment of opioid use disorder, including initiation and continuation of medication assisted treatment, in correctional facilities, within the United States. Second resolve proposed that the AAFP advocate for legislation, standards, policies and funding that encourage correctional facilities within the United States to work in ongoing collaboration with addiction treatment providers, case managers, social workers, and pharmacies in the communities where patients are released to offer post-incarceration treatment plans for opioid use disorder, including education, medication for addiction treatment, and medication for preventing overdose deaths. And lastly that the AAFP update its position statement “Incarceration and Health: A Family Medicine Perspective” to include utilization of medication assisted treatment as an evidence-based best practice for inmates with opioid use disorder.

Resolution no. 409 “Opposing Policies and Procedures Compelling Individuals Involved in the Justice System to Seek Specific Medications or Medical Procedures”

Outcome: Adopted.

This resolution from New York Chapter proposed that the AAFP advocate against policies and practices of incentivizing individuals involved in the justice system to seek family planning services including sterilization, contraception, and abortion, and that the AAFP advocate against policies and practices incentivizing individuals involved in the justice system to choose one form of Medication-Assisted Treatment over another. Emotional testimonies were given during the reference committee hearing providing examples of such practices in the current justice system.

Resolution no. 410 “Maternity and Reproductive Health Care are Essential Benefits”

Outcome: Adopted.

This resolution from Georgia Chapter tasked the AAFP to oppose legislation that allows insurers to opt out of maternity and reproductive health coverage, and proposed that the AAFP issue a formal statement affirming that maternity and reproductive health services are essential to general health care and should be covered under all insurance plans.

Resolution no. 411 “Endorse Restriction of Antibiotic Use in Food Animals”

Outcome: Referred to the Board of Directors

This resolution from California Chapter proposed that the AAFP support legislation restricting the use of antibiotics in food animal production to the treatment of animals with active disease, equivalent to the use in humans, urged the FDA and the USDA to restrict the use of antibiotics in food animal production to the treatment of animals with active disease, equivalent to the use in humans, and that the AAFP create educational content for family physicians, in the form of journal reviews, continuing professional education programs or educational materials, that focus on comprehensive antibiotic stewardship and specifically include education about the role of the food animal production system in the development of antibiotic resistance in humans. General support was expressed for the spirit of the resolution. However, due to complexity of the issue, it was referred to the Board.

Resolution no. 412 “Round Up Our Troops – Beware of Glyphosate”

Outcome: Referred to the Board of Directors.

This resolution from New Hampshire Chapter authored by Polina Sayess had multiple proposals: that the AAFP educate its members about the potential health hazards of human exposure to glyphosate; work with other agencies and organizations, in addition to the American Academy of Pediatrics, to increase the awareness of the general public about the health hazards of glyphosate to humans; advocate for labeling of products containing Glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic in humans,”; encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to revise its current position on glyphosate based on the latest evidence; collaborate with other organizations and agencies to encourage restricted use of Glyphosate in the U.S. until the concerns about its health hazards are resolved. Due to the complexity of the issue, the resolution was forwarded to the Board.

Resolution no. 413 “AAFP Statement Against Limiting Transgender Troops in the U.S. Military”

Outcome: Adopted.

This resolution submitted by the Member Constituencies proposed that the AAFP issue a statement opposing the ban on transgender persons serving in the United States Armed Forces.