

**110<sup>th</sup> Congress Legislative Agenda - As of March 2008**

1. Physician Payment Policies
  - A. Medicare physician payment—Sustainable Growth Rate
  - B. Provide framework for payment under Patient Centered Medical Home model
  - C. Rural physician payment policies—Geographic Cost of Practice Indices
    - Improve policies that encourage practice in rural and underserved areas
    - Reduce dependence upon foreign medical graduates
  - D. Ensure that existing and new Medicare services are properly reimbursed
    - Health Information Technology
    - Chronic Care Programs
    - Equity in reimbursements between Federal and State programs (Medicaid)
  - E. Protect reimbursements for OMT services
2. Graduate Medical Education
  - A. Funding—Direct and Indirect Medical Education
  - B. Provide loans to hospitals to begin residency programs in primary care
  - C. Utilization of Volunteer Faculty
  - D. Title VII and other medical education programs
  - E. Promote residency opportunities in CHC's and in concert with the VA
3. Promote and Protect Physicians' Ability to Care for Patients
  - A. Advance the principles of the Patient Centered Medical Home
  - B. Protect the physician-patient relationship, with attention to palliative and end-of-life care
  - C. Reduce the expansion of scope of practice for non-physician providers
  - D. Reduce regulatory burden placed upon physicians by the Federal government, state governments, and third party payers – especially for those with in-office laboratories
  - E. Monitor development of a national databank for controlled substances.
4. Medical Liability Reform
  - A. Enactment of legislation that reduces the frequency and severity of medical liability claims
    - Six principles—Role of caps on non-economic damages
    - Alternatives—Arbitration, pre-litigation panels, tax credits
  - B. Protect physicians ability to practice medicine
    - Reduce mandated reductions in services by insurers
    - Protect office-based surgery and high-risk procedures
  - C. Develop and enhance programs that encourage ACOFP members to become active advocates for reform
5. Patient Access to Quality Medical Care
  - A. Patient Safety
  - B. Monitor developments in quality reporting programs
  - C. Physician Workforce and distribution
  - D. Access to health care—uninsured and underinsured
  - E. Access to preventive health services, including flu vaccines
6. Advocacy and Member Education
  - A. Enhance and broaden resources that educate ACOFP members on legislative issues, including *Osteopathic Family Physician News* and *ACOFP.org*
  - B. Develop/enhance programs that empower ACOFP members to be active participants in the legislative/regulatory process by working to increase ACOFP participation in AOA advocacy programs such as DO Day on Capitol Hill, Every Patient Counts, and the DO Action Center
  - C. Enhance member participation in the Osteopathic Political Action Committee