



AAFP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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This July I had the opportunity to be the Student Delegate of the NAFP at the AAFP National Conference in Kansas City. I can say confidently that the future of our field is filled with passionate, empathetic, and empowered young doctors. When you get to the conference, the first thing you notice is the crowds of hundreds of students, residents, and attendings all together from across the nation talking about the issues and ideals that shape our profession. There are lectures and experiences ranging from wilderness medicine, to the dos and don'ts of applying to residency, to lectures on health advocacy.

The conference presented a wide range of talks and topics to empower and energize physicians at each step of their education. The main stage presentations presented the stories of Family Physicians from across the nation and presented a look into the future of Family Medicine in the background of improving health technologies and medical informatics.

Alongside enjoying the main stage and other presentations, as the Student Delegate for the NAFP I had the opportunity to participate as the representative for the voice of Nebraska medical students in the AAFP Congress of Students. Together, with representatives from across the nation, we elected new student representatives to be the voices to the AAFP and voted on resolutions to provide the Academy insight into issues and topics that are important to student physicians and their futures. I had never been a part of a parliamentary system previously, and it was exciting to see students from across the country hash out issues that complicate our practice, hurt our patients, and damage our communities. Over the course of three days we learned parliamentary process, debated topics near and dear to our states' hearts, wrote resolutions, and brought those resolutions before the whole congress.

Together we passed resolutions on many important topics and issues, including:

- Providing more student and resident training to reduce food poverty in our communities
- Navigating patient's health insurance
- Addressing adverse childhood events patients face
- Caring and advocating for minorities in our profession, also including ways to be better trained to care for minorities
- Physician health burnout, specifically addressing the stigma towards mental health issues in physician populations & the tragedy of physician suicide rates
- Closer financial monitoring of hospitals that offer residency positions in lieu of the recent closing of major systems that leave residents stranded

Between residents and students, we passed a total of 47 resolutions. I was honored to be a part of this and represent the voice of Nebraska medical students to the AAFP. I can confidently say that the AAFP is listening.

Overall, this conference provided the unmatched opportunity to meet the Family Medicine community from across the country. We are all facing the same issues day to day, whether that be dealing with the EMR, physician burnout, or trying to evoke positive change in our patients' lives. The AAFP National Conference is something that every student and resident should experience. You'll not only learn about health care policy, network with future residency programs and employers from across the country, hear from the leaders of our field, but you'll feel more energized and encouraged in Family Medicine than when you first stepped foot in Kansas City. I am sincerely thankful for this incredible opportunity from the NAFP.

-Brett Weum