



AAFP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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I had the honor and privilege to attend the AAFP National Conference from July 25th-27th as the Resident Delegate from Nebraska to the Resident Congress of Delegates. While I had attended the AAFP conference before, I was not quite sure what to expect as a delegate. However, from the moment I arrived I knew this was something special. The energy was astounding in the large hall, which was set to house delegates from each state, as well as supporters in the periphery. On the first day, we had sessions on parliamentary procedure and resolution writing. We also heard nominations for residents running for national leadership positions. There were numerous professionals from across the country with different viewpoints, though we all shared the same passion for promoting Family Medicine.

After the first session, I wanted to try my hand at resolution writing. I found another resident who was writing a resolution regarding methadone and the opioid crisis. Together, we drafted a resolution to increase methadone availability in primary care. The following day, I sat in on reference committee hearings. This is where the resolutions are presented in small sessions and testimony is heard. I also volunteered to be on a reference committee and heard testimony regarding 10 other resolutions. We worked to publish recommendations regarding these resolutions. On the final day, I testified in front of the Resident Congress and the resolution I was a part of was passed on to the AAFP committee.

Overall, this experience was enlightening and enriching. I was able to participate in legislative proceedings that can truly impact both physicians and their patients. It is astounding to be involved in a process that can affect national policy. It was also exhilarating to see so much energy and passion in one room. This conference was a reminder that we should always be looking to impact our patients, both on a small and on a large scale. I would like to thank the staff and my fellow residents at Clarkson Family Medicine for supporting me to be present as a voting delegate. I would also like to thank the NAFP for selecting me to represent the state as Nebraska's Resident Delegate.

-Erika L. Rothgeb, MD