

2026 Legislative Agenda

NYACP Health & Public Policy Committee

Kellin King, MD, FACP - Chair • Shellie Gumbs, MD, FACP - Vice Chair

Access to Care - Health Care Delivery

- **Advocate for Telehealth** including - Payment parity between video and telephone
- Unrestricted locations for the delivery of telehealth, especially patients (Medicare does not allow it now)
- Address the shortage and maldistribution of physician workforce with a focus on primary care
- Increase attention to physician burnout and evidence-based wellness solutions
- Promote the importance of adequate funding for GME and Grants for primary care
- Support continued viability of independent practices
- Engage in the development and testing of alternative payment models to ensure fairness in payments to primary care physicians and alignment of outcome-based metrics that are evidence-based across all payers and relevant to all physician practice types, sized, and settings
- Advocate against insurance proposals that are profit-driven, continue monitoring the NY Health Act, and all aspects of the NYS Medicaid program as it relates to the indigent care pool and undocumented individuals

Quality of Care and Patient Safety

- Continue to support and advocate for safety net hospitals in NYS for access to healthcare for all individuals including Non-citizens in rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Support measures addressing misinformation in the public domain as it relates to health information
- Continue to oppose step therapy barriers and streamline prior authorization processes
- Increased support for team-based care and continue advocating for physician-lead teams
- Address potential threats associated with the corporate practice of medicine proposals
- Provide ongoing support for Quality Improvement and enhanced patient safety
- Support and promote financing and expansion of opportunities for clinical research – especially for historically underrepresented populations from diverse backgrounds

Public Health

- Support research, funding, and legislative policies that promote public health in all domains
- Promote and participate in opportunities that explore and address the issue of health disparities
- Eliminate barriers and lower the threshold to access medications that treat mental health issues and substance use Disorders, including but not limited to opioid, alcohol, and other substances and tobacco products
- Support measures to strengthen preparedness for environmental disasters and outbreaks of infectious disease in NYS
- Continue to support proposals focused toward reducing violence and deaths (i.e., firearm injuries)
- Support evidence-based practice to achieve an appropriate balance between population health and individual wellbeing
- Using principles of high-value, cost-conscious care