

Ensuring Physician Representation in State Regulation of the Practice of Medicine

WHEREAS, family physicians are experts in the diagnosis, treatment, and longitudinal management of patients across all ages and settings; and

WHEREAS, in every state, advanced practice providers (APPs) diagnose illnesses, prescribe medications, and provide medical treatment within the scope authorized by state law; and

WHEREAS, regulation of the practice of medicine should include meaningful physician expertise whenever policies affecting diagnosis, prescribing, clinical standards, and patient safety are developed; and

WHEREAS, several states utilize collaborative governance models involving both Boards of Medicine and Boards of Nursing, while others have reduced or eliminated physician participation in regulatory decisions affecting medical practice; and

WHEREAS, preserving physician representation in these decisions promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, protects patient safety, and supports evidence-based policymaking without diminishing the valuable contributions of nursing professionals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for meaningful physician participation in state regulatory processes affecting the diagnosis, treatment, and prescribing authority of advanced practice providers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AAFP support state regulatory structures that provide physicians with a formal role in the development, revision, and oversight of policies governing the diagnosis, treatment, and prescribing authority of advanced practice providers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AAFP opposes state legislative or administrative actions that eliminate or substantially diminish physician participation in regulatory processes affecting the diagnosis, treatment, and prescribing authority of advanced practice providers.