

1 **INDIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**  
2 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AAFP DELEGATION**  
3

4 **French Lick, IN**

**July 22, 2022**

5 **Jason E. Marker, MD, MPA, FAAFP**  
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7 The events of the 2021 AAFP Congress of Delegates spilled over into 2022 and will continue to  
8 require some work into this autumn. Below is a summary of those activities:  
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10 Due to the rise of the Delta-variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus the decision was made that there  
11 would be a brief virtual AAFP Congress of Delegates Part 1 in the fall of 2021. This was  
12 specifically to receive greetings from dignitaries, hear reports from Officers and Candidates for  
13 office, and to share logistical information about the process toward managing the many  
14 submitted resolutions. This all went smoothly and Dr. Teresa Lovins from our delegation was  
15 elected to fill a 1-year term to the AAFP Board of Directors! Dr. Tochi Iroku-Malize from New  
16 York was elected at AAFP President-Elect. A summary of these proceedings and a transcript of  
17 Dr. Lovins' speech can be found here:

18 [https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/about\\_us/congress/restricted/2021/2021%20Special%20Session%20of%20the%20COD%20Transactions.pdf](https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/about_us/congress/restricted/2021/2021%20Special%20Session%20of%20the%20COD%20Transactions.pdf)  
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21 Reference Committee work was delayed until February 2022 to allow additional time for  
22 resolution submission and to see if there would be an opportunity for this work to happen in  
23 person. The Omicron-variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus did NOT allow such an in-person  
24 meeting and so this, too, was held virtually. There was lengthy and lively debate across a whole  
25 spectrum of medical, administrative, and social topics. Many of these resolutions were passed,  
26 but a sizeable cluster were deferred for additional debate and adjudication at the 2022 Congress  
27 of Delegates this upcoming September in Washington D.C. Additional information about the  
28 work output from the various Reference Committees can be found here:

29 <https://www.aafp.org/about/congress-delegates/2021/rcreports.mem.html>  
30

31 Indiana had two resolutions among those discussed at the Congress of Delegates. Resolution No.  
32 204 "Develop an AAFP Background Consultation Team" to provide consultative services that  
33 would inform discussions at the COD, at the AAFP Board of Directors, and for the AAP  
34 Commissions was voted down. Here is a summary of that debate:  
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36 The reference committee heard testimony both in support of and in opposition to the  
37 resolution. Those in favor of the resolution expressed that many areas of change being  
38 explored by the Congress of Delegates (COD) are becoming increasingly complex. Some  
39 organizations, such as the American College of Physicians and the Association of American  
40 Physicians, also have ethics committees with extensive training and expertise. Having a  
41 background consultation team to comment on and provide objective context would be helpful  
42 to the decision-making body in making informed decisions. Individuals who were not in favor  
43 of the resolution expressed a desire to prevent duplicative work, stating that this background  
44 work is already being performed by staff with a quick turnaround time. The reference  
45 committee agreed the COD already has decision making support from staff who have  
46 institutional knowledge, expertise, and external resources. Additionally, members of the  
47 reference committee shared concerns about the potentially significant and unknown financial  
48 impact of hiring consultants who would have to be educated by staff on a recurring basis  
49 regarding AAFP policies and COD processes.  
50

Resolution No. 205 "Create AAFP COD Reference Committee Membership Process That Is  
1 Diverse and Transparent" was extracted for further debate in Washington D.C. with the  
2 following debate summary:  
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4 Testimony provided by members reflected the desire to better understand how reference  
5 committee members are selected and for more transparency into that process. They  
6 believed adoption of the resolution would support an inclusive and equitable process that  
7 would help the reference committees better reflect the diversity in the membership and  
8 maintain bipartisanship. While there was overall support for transparency, there was also  
9 testimony that expressed challenges with being able to appropriately identify personal biases  
10 that could be viewed as either positive or negative. A past speaker of the Congress of  
11 Delegates (COD) shared that the role of reference committees is to provide  
12 recommendations based on what they believe is best for the membership. The reference  
13 committee supported the desire for transparency and acknowledged the effort the Speakers  
14 of the COD expend in trying to ensure that reference committees are diverse and reflective  
15 of the membership. The reference committee also acknowledged the challenges Speakers  
16 face in balancing the various needs for diversity, expertise, experience, as well as lack of  
17 volunteers at times. The reference committee was also concerned with the difficulty in  
18 operationalizing the selection process. Therefore, they believed the Board of Directors  
19 should evaluate this matter further.

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21 Your delegation looks forward to additional conversation with our colleagues from around the  
22 country on this resolution in the weeks ahead. We are also eager to support Dr. Lovins' bid for a  
23 follow-up 3-year seat on the AAFP Board of Directors.

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25 Additional information about past and future AAFP Congress of Delegates activities can be  
26 found here: <https://www.aafp.org/about/congress-delegates.html>

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28 Thank you all for allowing me to present this report on the activities of the IAFP Delegation to  
29 the AAFP Congress of Delegates. We welcome ALL who wish to engage in the political and  
30 policy processes of the AFP to join the conversation through the year ahead by their active  
31 participation with our Board of Directors meetings, interactions with state leaders at CME  
32 events, participation in the IAFP Physician of the Day program at the Indiana Statehouse, and in  
33 our IAFP All-Member Congress of Delegates at the IAFP Annual Meeting.

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35 Respectfully Submitted,

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37 Jason Marker, MD, Delegate  
38 Risheet Patel, MD, Delegate  
39 David Schultz, MD, Alternate Delegate  
40 Teresa Lovins, MD, Alternate Delegate