**Advocacy in action**

Key 2018 achievements and 2019 priorities

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**Ending the opioid epidemic**

*2018 key win:* Initiated deep-dive efforts on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) coverage for opioid use disorder with great success in Pennsylvania—where prior authorization will be eliminated for MAT

*2019 objective:* Advocate for increased funding for multidisciplinary pain care and treatment for substance use disorders, as well as increased enforcement of mental health parity laws

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**Preventing gun violence**

*2018 key win:* Successfully advocated for a federal ban on bump stocks and partnered with AFFIRM, a physician-led nonprofit dedicated to gun violence research

*2019 objective:* Urge federal and state policymakers to fund research on prevention of gun violence, and strengthen background checks and other measures to prevent deaths and injuries from firearms

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**Advocating for drug pricing transparency and competition**

*2018 key win:* Supported federal legislation (signed into law) and numerous state bills that will prohibit gag clauses and allow pharmacists to share lower-cost medication options with patients

*2019 objective:* Continue TruthinRx.org campaign with heightened grassroots mobilization efforts and pursue drug pricing legislation that reflects AMA advocacy objectives

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**Enhancing access to care**

*2018 key win:* Secured funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program for 10 years and supported successful Medicaid expansion efforts in four states

*2019 objective:* Continue to promote Medicaid expansion and advocate for policies that stabilize the individual insurance market
Improving physician payment
2018 key win: | Led a coalition to prevent the E/M code collapse, and secured multiple changes to improve Medicare physician payment policies (e.g., Quality Payment Program)

2019 objective: Advocate to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Congress for continued improvements to the Quality Payment Program

Fighting abusive insurer practices
2018 key win: | Convinced Anthem to reverse its planned modifier 25 policy, which would have led to $100 million in physician payment reductions, and opposed efforts by Anthem to retroactively deny coverage of emergency department care

2019 objective: Advocate directly with health insurers to stop policies that adversely affect patients and physicians

Pushing for regulatory relief
2018 key win: | Congress eliminated the requirement that the federal electronic health record program become more stringent over time

2019 objective: Work to eliminate, streamline, align and simplify the many federal rules and regulations imposed on physicians

Limiting prior authorization
2018 key win: | Created a consensus statement to “right size” prior authorization that was agreed to by multiple industry stakeholders and launched a new grassroots advocacy website—FixPriorAuth.org

2019 objective: Work to reduce both the overall volume of prior authorization requirements and the number of physicians subjected to such requirements