



# Advocacy in action

Key 2018 achievements  
and 2019 priorities

## 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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## 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

## 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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## 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

## 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](https://www.fixpriorauth.org)

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

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## 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

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## 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



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