2018 Advocacy Value Proof Points

- Averted significant cuts in office visit payments in CMS code collapse proposal
- PA decision to eliminate prior authorization for MAT
- Federal legislation & regulation to expand coverage/payment for digital medicine
- Anthem reversal on Modifier 25 policy avoided $100m annually in physician payment cuts. United Health Group and CMS also dropped plans to impose similar cuts
- Legislative improvements to Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP)
- Reduced reporting burdens in QPP
- Repeal of Independent Payment Advisory Board
- Assisted state medical societies in defeating over a dozen problematic balance billing proposals
AMA National Health Policy Priorities

• Health insurance coverage and reforms
  • Maintain safety net programs
  • Equity
• Drug pricing
• Unanticipated bills (AKA surprise bills)
• Opioid epidemic
• Gun violence
• Regulatory relief
• Egregious health insurance practices
• Preserving competition

• Delivery & payment reform
  • Improving Medicare policies
    • Annual PFS updates
    • Expanded APM options
    • Maintain FFS option
    • MIPS adjustments
    • E/M coding policies
    • Practice expenses
    • Breaking down payment silos in value-based care
Health Care the Top Issue for Majority of Midterm Voters

- COST
- ACCESS
- ACA
- MEDICARE
Figure 1

Health Care Is Top Issue For Voters In The Midterm Elections

Percent who say each of the following issues is “very important” in making their decision about who to vote for Congress this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy and jobs</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun policy</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax cuts and tax reform</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign policy</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When asked to choose one, percent who say each of the following is the “most important” issue in making their decision about who to vote for Congress this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy and jobs</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun policy</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax cuts and tax reform</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign policy</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Questions asked of and reported among total registered voters.
SOURCE: KFF Election Tracking Poll (conducted September 19-October 2, 2018)
### Figure 5

**Health Care Costs Is Among The Top Health Care Issues Across Partisans**

When you say health care is one of the most important issues in making your decision about who to vote for Congress this year, what specifically do you mean? *(open-end)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>DEMOCRATIC VOTERS</th>
<th>INDEPENDENT VOTERS</th>
<th>REPUBLICAN VOTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Increased access (31%)</td>
<td>Health care costs (27%)</td>
<td>Health care costs (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Health care costs (22%)</td>
<td>Increased access (19%)</td>
<td>Opposition to/Repealing the ACA (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Medicare/senior concerns (9%)</td>
<td>Opposition to/Repealing the ACA (6%)</td>
<td>Medicare/senior concerns (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Improving/implementing the ACA (7%)</td>
<td>Medicare/senior concerns (6%)</td>
<td>Concern about quality of coverage/care (7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**: Top 4 responses shown. Question asked of those who say health care is a very important or somewhat important issue to their vote. Percentages reported among total registered voters.

**SOURCE**: KFF Election Tracking Poll (conducted September 19-October 2, 2018)
## Agenda for a Democrat-Led House

### Aggressive Oversight
- Trump
- Cabinet & agencies
- Immigration and detention policy
- Industries

### Stop/Reverse Trump
- Block deregulation
- Protect/save ACA

### Potential Deals
- Infrastructure
- Rx prices
- Trade
- Surprise billing?

### Rally the Base
- Immigration/DACA
- Ethics/campaign finance reform/voting rights
- Guns/background checks
- Medicare for All
- Student loans
Congressional Dynamics

• 2020 election season began Jan. 1
  • Many Senators are potential POTUS candidates
    • 4 declared
    • 10 others mentioned

• Many new faces
  • 66% of Representatives elected since ACA passed; 33% were not here for MACRA
    • 2/3 of Representatives unaccustomed to their majority/minority roles
  • 58% of Senators elected since ACA; 19% were not here for MACRA
Congressional Dynamics

• Extremely challenging federal budget situation
  • House Democratic leadership has restored PAYGO rules
  • Annual federal budget deficits are now $1 TRILLION
  • Not too distant future, federal deficit projected to reach 100% of GDP
  • Debt limit expires March 1; extraordinary measures exhausted summer/fall
  • $225b estimate for offsets for two-year deal to adhere to budget caps (Sept. 30)
  • Medicare Hospital Trust Fund insolvency projected in 2026
• Intense focus on health care costs
  • No SGR “shield” for physician payments
  • Expect calls to reduce “wasteful spending” as a condition for improved Medicare payments
Administration Dynamics

• Focus often on disruption vs. making existing order work better
  • De-regulation focus seems genuine
• Competition report is mixed bag (scope of practice, physician-owned hospitals)
• Tendency to look to private sector for solutions
• Surprising use of price setting authority:
  • Hospital site-of-service
  • 340b
  • International drug pricing index
  • E/M code collapse proposal
  • Restoration of mandatory bundled services
What to Take Away

• Health care remains a top issue for legislators
  • Many competitors for a shrinking pie

• Many of them have not heard your story
  • Lessons of the past never learned by many

• Physician advocacy matters!
Unanticipated Medical Bills

- Insurer accountability
- Patient responsibility
- Transparency
- Universality
- Setting benchmark payments
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Keep patients out of the middle

Ask your member of Congress to ensure that any legislation addressing unanticipated medical bills incorporates these principles.
Prescription Drug Pricing, Costs, and Transparency

• Increase pharmaceutical market competition and combat anticompetitive practices

• Require pharmaceutical supply chain transparency

Urge your senators and representative to support legislation to combat anticompetitive pharmaceutical company practices and improve drug price transparency throughout the distribution chain.
Preventing Gun Violence

Background Checks:

Urge your representative to cosponsor and support enactment of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019.

Gun Violence Research:

Urge your senators and your representative to support specific funding for the CDC to conduct epidemiological research on gun violence as part of Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process.
Continue Efforts on Substance Use Disorder

• Congress must ensure full funding for efforts to increase access to treatment prevention and other interventions to address the opioid crisis

• Remove barriers that
  1. Delay or deny care for medication-assisted treatment
  2. Limit access to comprehensive, multimodal, multidisciplinary pain care

• Enforce state and federal mental health and substance use disorder parity laws
Conrad 30 Waiver program

- Physician green card backlog
- Patient access and Conrad 30 reauthorization legislation

Ask your senators and representatives to support legislation to reauthorize and improve the Conrad 30 program by requiring more transparency in employment contract terms, creating additional waivers per states, and protecting spouses and children of physicians in the program.