



*Personal statement for Carl R. Olden, MD, FAAFP*

As your AAFP Board member during the past four years, I have brought my leadership and advocacy skills to bear on the issues important to all of us as family physicians. Going forward, I believe we must keep our focus on:

1. Growing and sustaining a Family Medicine workforce equipped with the emotional, intellectual and technical skills necessary to provide the breadth and depth of care our patients require, and the skills needed to effectively lead health care teams in our practices, hospitals and communities.
2. Transforming the payment model to achieve universal access to comprehensive prevention, wellness and disease management care, and to assure the economic viability of Family Medicine practices,
3. Reducing the administrative burden that drives the joy from our practices and advocating for change so electronic health records work for us, not us for them; fixing the system to prevent the “overwhelm” that leads to burnout.

Family Medicine can lead America into a world of quadruple aim medicine, improving quality, safety, value and experience for patients and physicians, but we must have financially viable and thriving practices to do so. Those gains and improvements cannot come from the mere 5% that America spends on Primary Care.

America trails other countries in global measures of health, access to preventive services and wellness care, and chronic disease management. Countries with universal access and single payer systems spend 25% or more on Primary Care with a physician workforce ratio of 60% Primary Care to 40% Specialty Care, with Family Physicians reporting high satisfaction with their practices. It is time to take a stand as an Academy for a national system of health care with a much greater investment in Primary Care.

Everyone deserves a family physician.

It is not just the message on my license plate frame; it has always been my driving conviction as a practicing Family Physician, as an educator, as a medical leader and as an advocate for my patients and our community.

It is the conviction that will drive me as your AAFP President-elect.