



MAINE ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

STRONG MEDICINE FOR MAINE

MAFP PineCones E-Newsletter
Summer 2025



Fun Facts About Maine



You may have guessed that Maine produces over 80% of the lobster in the US. But did you also know Maine produces more than 90% of toothpicks in the US? Chew on that fact!

MAFP Advocacy in Action!

AAFP Efforts in Recent Federal Legislation

AAFP worked tirelessly advocating for family interests with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), which was signed into legislation on July 4th. A summary of the signed legislation can be found [here](#).

Are you interested in joining AAFP advocacy efforts? Become an AAFP Advocacy Ambassador for first hand opportunities to advocate for family medicine. The program is a new initiative for AAFP members to be contacted by AAFP government relations team to speak up on issues that affect family physicians. Several of you have already joined, but more are always welcome. To learn more about the program and sign up, click [here](#).

Childhood Immunizations Program Expansion

Thanks to the advocacy of our Maine AFP, practices can now obtain adult vaccines through the State of Maine as we do for childhood vaccines. MAFP testified in favor of LD 93 and we are delighted to share that it passed on July 1st. The Maine Vaccine Board will soon determine which vaccines will be available through this program and the adult vaccines will be available starting in July 2026.

During this past legislative session at the Maine State House, Samuel Zager MD (Maine State Representative, District 116 in Portland) introduced LD93 "An Act to Reduce Cost and Increase Access to Disease Prevention by Expanding the Universal Childhood Immunization Program to Include Adults". One of the barriers for physician practices to offer more adult vaccines in their offices is the high upfront costs of purchasing them and the money lost if they are not used. This bill would drastically reduce this barrier by allowing our practices to obtain these vaccines through the State of Maine as we do for childhood vaccines. [Here is a link to view the new law.](#)

Primary Care Investment

Starting in 2026, the Maine Quality Forum will not only measure primary care spending in Maine but will also convene a primary care advisory council.

For the past few years, MAFP has been participating in a nationwide group through the Millbank Foundation looking at ways to increase investment in primary care. Last year, we worked with Lisa Letourneau, MD at DHHS to research the eight state primary care advisory councils that are in place across the United States. This winter, our own member Samuel Zager MD who is also a member in Maine's House of Representatives sponsored LD 1497 - a bill to create a primary care advisory council in Maine that would recommend ways to strengthen primary care in our State.

MAFP testified in favor of the bill this winter. It subsequently passed the Maine's Senate and House of Representatives to become law. It's not a perfect bill and it got changed slightly in the legislative process but we still think it will be helpful to improve the future of primary care in Maine. [Link to law here.](#)

Maternity Task Force July Meeting

Topic: MAFP Rural Maternity Care Task Force
Time: Jul 28, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 827 7972 0786
Passcode: 958802

MAFP Maternity Care Task Force

The MAFP has convened a group of members in a task force to address maternity care in Maine. Our goals for this task force are to first identify a team of Family Physicians across Maine who can together represent Family Medicine as an important part of the solution as our state faces a maternity care crisis, particularly in rural areas as birthing units continue to face closure. We are working with other stakeholders and we strongly feel that the voices of Family Physicians are essential to the conversation and to improve all aspects of care. We convened for our first meeting at the end of May, and have a follow up meeting on Monday, July 28th at 6:30pm on Zoom (include link). All interested members are welcome to join! FMI contact marya.spurling@gmail.com .

[Moving the Needle on Pregnancy Care](#) - links to resources and information on AAFP's Family Centered Pregnancy Care Conference.

GET INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY!

Below are some ways to get more involved in advocacy at the state and/or federal level:

- Join MAFP's Advocacy Committee. We meet monthly during Maine's legislative session. Email info@maineafp.org to join.
- Join the MMA/MOA's weekly legislative calls. Their advocacy committee is co-chaired by our own Pat Connolly. You can **sign up for their calls here**.
- Join the MMA's weekly newsletter to stay up to date with state and federal health news. You can **sign up here to receive their newsletter**.
- Join HAME (Healthcare Advocates of Maine) <https://www.standupme.org/>. MAFP's Dr. Brendan Prast runs this organization. They have been quite active in both state and federal advocacy efforts including meetings with Susan Collins and media appearances on Maine Public Radio and press conferences across media outlets.

Introducing the MAFP

Get to know your MAFP Board! Jessica Faraci practices in Brunswick, and is the head of the Communications Committee. Reach out to her or the other board members with ideas for MAFP communication, content, or feedback.



Doc for A Day

For the past few years, MAFP has provided financial support for the Doc for a Day program, hoping to encourage young adults in communities under-represented in medicine to become physicians (and hopefully family physicians!).

Doc4aDay is a community outreach program provided through the MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Department of Medical Education. It is a half-day program designed to spark an interest in a career in health care by targeting historically marginalized high school students who show academic promise. Doc4aDay provides an introduction about the pathway to becoming a physician or other health care professional, a hands-on suturing and vital signs segment in the skills lab, participation in high-fidelity simulated patient scenarios and a question-and-answer session with current medical students. Vicki and Shelly have worked in partnership for over ten years to deliver this valuable program.

On Tuesday May 5th, Vicki Hayes MD (MAFP member) and Shelly Chipman RN took the Doc4aDay program for high school students on the road to the MaineHealth Maine MedicalCenter Campus in Sanford. Thirteen students from Sanford High School attended this half day event. Four Tufts University School of Medicine Maine Track students, one Tufts Boston Track student and one University of New England College of Medicine student participated as teachers during the event.



Climate Study Participation Needed

Invitation to participate in a research study: *Assessing needs to develop climate informed primary care in Northern New England: Clinical perspectives*

Dear Primary Care Clinicians of Northern New England,

A group of researchers at the University of Vermont, MaineHealth, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock are studying how Primary Care Clinicians are experiencing and responding to the climate-related health needs of their patients, as well as their priorities for resources to aid clinical care. Climate-related health needs include illnesses related to heat, air quality, traumatic injury from extreme weather events, anxiety, tick-borne pathogens, and other health challenges.

What is involved in the research study?

We are inviting Primary Care Clinicians who currently serve patients in Maine, New Hampshire, and/or Vermont to complete one online survey. Total time for completing the survey is about 5 to 10 minutes.

Everyone who completes the survey may choose to enter into a raffle to win one of 50 \$25 VISA gift cards as a small token of appreciation for their time.

To participate you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age,
- Be a primary care clinician (e.g. Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Certified Nurse Specialist, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse),
- Be currently serving patients in Maine, New Hampshire, and/or Vermont.

[Click here to participate.](#)

Thank you!

Our New Social Media Accounts are Live! Stay in the Loop — Follow MAFP Today!



[Follow us on Instagram!](#)



[Check out our new Facebook Page!](#)

AAFP News and Highlights

AAFP FMX Conference

The AAFP FMX (Family Medicine Experience) conference will take place from October 5-9, 2025, in Anaheim, California, offering extensive medical education and networking opportunities for family physicians.

Conference Details

- Dates: October 5-9, 2025
- Location: Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA

[Click here to register!](#)

Practice Resources



Maine Substance Use Disorders Learning Community

Check out some of the ME SUD upcoming Webinars on topics such as Buprenorphine Formulations (August 8), Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder (August 13), and Adolescent Substance Use (August 19). [Click here to register and view other resources.](#)

Report: Improving Adult Immunization Rates

You know the power of immunizations to protect your adult patients. Yet misinformation stands in the way—especially in communities hit hardest by disparities. To help, the AAFP and CDC created a report with quality improvement strategies to guide your patients toward informed decisions.

Better vaccine conversations start here: [Immunizations & Vaccines](#)

From "Inside Family Medicine"



INSIDE FAMILY MEDICINE



In this episode of 'Inside Family Medicine', Dr. Levin shares how his experiences in underserved communities, including his work with Doctors Without Borders, have shaped his medical career. He discusses his current roles at Norton Sound Health Corporation in Alaska, Tulane University, and Mount Sinai, and offers valuable insights and advice for medical students and residents. Dr. Levin emphasizes the unique opportunities family medicine offers and the importance of finding what causes 'a revolution in your heart.'

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)



Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians Fall Program - Grief and Aging

Explore the emotional impact of grief and the challenges of aging through expert talks and interactive sessions. Gain insights and strategies to support individuals navigating these experiences.

[Click to Register](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

Have ideas for future MAFP newsletters? Contact amuckley@lutinemanagement.com with your ideas!

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Maine Academy of Family Physicians (Administrative Address) | 224 W. State Street | Trenton, NJ 08608 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!