

2022

Doctors for America Impact Report

Doctors and their allies in health care are consistently rated as having the highest levels of trust among a broad and diverse population. Doctors care for patients across racial, socioeconomic, gender, geographic, and political spectra; they can give voice to diverse perspectives, stories, and needs that proposed policies are meant to address. Doctors can powerfully speak to the core values of medical professionalism – to care for all patients, fairly and equitably. Doctors for America’s (DFA) work is focused in three comprehensive Impact Areas: Access to Affordable Care, Community Health and Prevention and Health Justice and Equity. The patient is at the center of all that we do to improve the health of our patients, communities and nation. DFA is the organization that puts patients over politics and profits!

Offered 12 Advocacy Grand Round sessions on cutting edge topics like reproductive rights, clinical trial diversity, turning rage against gun violence into action, understanding the impact of bias, microaggressions and microinvalidations, and how to use the rule-making process to affect positive change in health care just to name a few.

Advocates provided comments for the final rule issued by the Department of Justice that bans the business of manufacturing ghost guns.



Co-founded the Reproductive Health Coalition in partnership with the

American Medical Women’s Association to create a coalition of over 40 organizations with over 152M collective members.



Social Media



9.1 % post engagement rate
(1.84% - industry average)



50k Facebook page reach
(previous year = 15k)



9.09 % post engagement rate
(1.04% - industry average)



3.46% post engagement rate
(1.42% - industry average)



over \$8k raised during
end-of-year campaign



Access to Affordable Care



Doctors for America members focus on all of the ways our patients access, pay for, and receive their medical care by advocating for universal health coverage, affordability, quality, and equity. The Access to Affordable Care Impact Area consists of two subcommittees, Federal Policy Sub-Committee and the State Policy Sub-Committee. These sub-committees are further broken down into task forces that execute various pieces of advocacy work.

ADVOCACY GRAND ROUNDS

May - Advocates learned about “The Many Roads to Medicaid Expansion” featuring speakers from North Carolina and South Dakota discussing the ballot initiative process and how to work on expansion legislatively in a red state.

October - Provided new skill opportunities in “Leverage the Rulemaking Process to Impact Policy.” Participants learned how to provide public comment in the rulemaking process to create powerful changes within public health.

610 messages



from DFA advocates on the importance of supporting health care provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, resulting in Medicare's ability to negotiate drug prices.



40 million children

on Medicaid and CHIP to have uninterrupted access to health care throughout the year.

The Access to Affordable Care Committee created a one-pager outlining the Values and Principles for Health Care Transformation. [Download here.](#)



AAC hosted a Day of Action on 3/23/22 to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. In partnership with AMSA, we hosted a four-hour Advothon Zoom Room that was easy for members to call their legislators. The Advothon was followed by a sign-on letter and a kick-off press conference event with partners from Patients for Affordable Drugs and AARP on the health care provisions from our Day of Action.



Community Health and Prevention



We advocate on a diverse array of issues that affect our communities, from firearm violence to substance use disorder, from homelessness to access to mental health services. All the while, being ready to respond to emerging threats, such as COVID response and recovery, and fight for long term change and funding for public health and medical research institutions and through our support of the health care workforce.

**335
messages**



were sent to state legislators encouraging them to adopt firearm safe storage practices.



**450
forwards**

of messages to US Senators about the importance and necessity of confirming Steve Dettlebach as the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



The Substance Use Disorder subcommittee created and finalized a position statement on the Decriminalization of Cannabis Possession and Use. [Download here.](#)

ADVOCACY GRAND ROUNDS

February - Offered a hands-on session to “Learn How to Combat Misinformation” when talking to patients, media and friends to build confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.

July - Dr. Joe Sakran & Greg Jackson helped us to “Channel Your Outrage into Action” with concrete methods for policy advocacy on gun violence prevention.

November - Advocates learned how to engage in policy reform with an interactive presentation on the “The Fight for Federal Drug Reform” featuring the Drug Policy Alliance.

DFA advocates provided comments for the final rule issued by the Department of Justice that bans the business of manufacturing ghost guns, such as unserialized “buy build shoots” kits, without a background check and can readily assembled into a working firearm in as little as 30 minutes. The final rule also turned some ghost guns already in circulation into serialized firearms.



Health Justice and Equity



Doctors for America members work to make the healthcare system more just and equitable for all, acting to erase inequities based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexuality, age, immigration status, and more. The Health Justice and Equity Impact Area works on reproductive rights, gender affirming care and decriminalization and liberation all with the goal to eliminate health inequity.

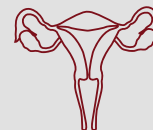
ADVOCACY GRAND ROUNDS

January - Advocates learned how to be an upstander instead of a bystander by “Understanding Bias, Microaggressions and Microinvalidations.

May - Advocates explored mechanisms of confronting law enforcement in healthcare settings along with identifying toolkits to use as resources.

October - Doctors for America held a special event on Sex Education that featured speakers from SIECUS. Attendees examined the tenets of a comprehensive sex education, reviewed a case study, and then learned the different levels of local advocacy they can engage in.

649
messages



from DFA advocates sent to state legislatures on the importance of access to reproductive rights including abortion.



99
advocates

called their representatives in a crowded Zoom room and left messages during the most well-attended Health Justice and Equity event that followed the Dobbs v. Jackson decision.

Created an in carceral toolkit in partnership with Medical Justice Alliance and Chicago People's Rights Collaborative.
[Download Here.](#)




The Gender Affirming Care subcommittee addressed legislation by educating legislators in dozens of states related to LGBTQ discrimination. Some bills sought to advance nondiscrimination laws, but most attempted to single out and target LGBTQ for unfair and unequal treatment.



FDA Task Force



The FDA Task Force is a working group within Doctors for America that advocates for a stronger FDA. We do that by educating legislators and medical professionals and by acting as a non-partisan counterweight to the pharmaceutical industry.



FDA Task Force Chair, Dr. Reshma Ramachandran testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on February 3, 2022 and March 17, 2022 about the need for diversity in clinical trials, patient safety and the necessity for FDA-approved drugs to show clinical benefit, particularly if they are approved through expedited review pathways such as accelerated approval as well as the need for transparency around FDA's decision-making.



ADVOCACY
GRAND ROUNDS

August - Hosted an Advocacy Grand Rounds event with physician and policy experts from Harvard University on the possible role the FDA could take in helping people access reproductive care.

December - Advocacy Grand Rounds discussing the pregnancy drug Makena and its recent scrutiny.

1,533 messages 

to Members of Congress to support important legislation to help the FDA improve patient safety including the enforcement diverse clinical trials and a reform of the accelerated approval pathway.

 **1,101 advocates**

have reached out to their elected officials on the importance of patient protections in the User Fee Bill.

- Collaborated with Columbia school of law clinic exploring legal grounds for pre-emption of mifepristone, a key move that could help strengthen FDA's enforcement power.
- Coordinated an academic and organizational letter with over 35 signatories to the Senate HELP Committee leadership urging the inclusion of reforms to the accelerated approval pathway as well as measures to ensure clinical trial diversity.

