

Res (South Carolina A) - Promote More Claims Clearing Houses and Reduce Vertical Integration in Healthcare

Introduced by the South Carolina Chapter

WHEREAS, The healthcare industry has seen increasing vertical integration, exemplified by entities such as United Healthcare, Optum, and Change Healthcare, which combine insurance, healthcare services, and claims processing under one corporate umbrella, and

WHEREAS, vertical integration in the healthcare industry can lead to conflicts of interest, reduced competition, higher prices, and limited choices for consumers and providers, and

WHEREAS, the existence of multiple, independent claims clearing houses can enhance competition, drive innovation, reduce costs, and improve the quality of services provided to both healthcare providers and patients, and

WHEREAS, an open and competitive market for claims processing is essential to ensure transparency, efficiency, and fair practices in the healthcare industry, and

WHEREAS, promoting a diverse and competitive environment in healthcare claims processing aligns with the broader goals of improving healthcare access, affordability, and quality, and now, therefore be it, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate on the federal level with relevant regulatory agencies to develop policies and incentives to encourage the establishment and growth of independent claims clearing houses, which may include providing grants, tax incentives, and technical support to new and existing independent clearing houses, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for regulatory agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), to have increased oversight and scrutiny of mergers and acquisitions in the healthcare industry, particularly those that contribute to vertical integration, to ensure that measures be taken to prevent anti-competitive practices and ensure a level playing field for all market participants, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for and support the promotion of interoperability standards among industry stakeholders that include claims clearing houses, healthcare providers, insurers, and technology companies, working together to develop and adopt interoperability standards that facilitate seamless data exchange and communication across different platforms and systems, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians create policies and programs to support small and medium-sized healthcare providers in navigating the claims processing landscape; this to include providing resources, training, and access to affordable claims processing solutions, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) establish a recurring agenda item within the AAFP Commission on Federal and State Policy (CFSP) to evaluate the impact of vertical integration and the effectiveness of measures taken to promote competition in the healthcare claims processing market, the CFSP shall regularly report its findings and make recommendations for further action to the AAFP Board and membership for use in advocacy efforts with policymakers, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians raise public awareness about the importance of competition in the healthcare claims processing market; and encourage advocacy groups, consumer organizations, and industry associations to participate in the dialogue and advocate for policies that promote a fair and competitive marketplace.