



Legislative Update

February 6, 2026

This week began with a promising breakthrough in the impasse between Senate Democrats and Republican leadership. The Democrats agreed to suspend their filibuster of gubernatorial appointments in exchange for proposed rule changes. These changes could potentially make it more difficult to invoke the previous question motion (shutting off debate), which has long been a primary point of contention for the caucus.

While several gubernatorial appointments have since been confirmed and a few bills have passed the Senate, Democrats continue to employ an exceptionally methodical review of all pending legislation. On the House side, the pace remains brisk: several pieces of legislation passed the floor this week, and the committee process is currently operating at full capacity.

In Brief...

- Senator Stephen Webber (D-Columbia) has publicly called on the company Waymo to correct testimony given to the Senate Transportation Committee last week. Webber alleges the company failed to disclose a recent collision involving a child during their presentation on driverless vehicles.
- State leaders announced that traffic fatalities in Missouri declined in 2025 for the third consecutive year, marking a total reduction of 14% since 2022. Preliminary data shows 911 roadway deaths last year, a 5% drop from 2024, which officials attribute to ongoing roadway safety initiatives.

State Funded GME

The Governor's proposed budget for FY27 includes several significant cuts necessitated by falling state revenues. Most notably, the proposal eliminates state funding for the expansion of Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots for primary care physicians. This initiative, originally spearheaded by MAFP, was designed to create residency positions leading to 1,000 new doctors trained in 10 years. With the funding use thus far, we have 25 new doctors currently training right here in Missouri.

In previous sessions, this comprehensive program received:

- \$2.3 million in state general revenue for residency slot expansion.
- \$3.5 million in state general revenue for the GME Technical Assistance Center.
- \$5 million from Opioid Settlement funds for specific GME training in substance and opioid abuse.

In the current FY27 budget proposal, funding for the GME Technical Assistance Center has been reduced to \$2.5 million, and while the \$5 million for opioid-specific training remains, the funding for state residency slot expansion has been completely removed.

The Academy is currently working with budget leaders to express our deep concerns regarding these cuts. We recognize that this is a challenging fiscal year; however, given Missouri's desperate need for more physicians, we believe that maintaining this program is a vital investment for our state's future.



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Hearings of Interest Update

HB 1965: Athletic Trainer Insurance Reimbursement

House Bill 1965, presented by Representative Tara Peters, seeks to include licensed athletic trainers in the pool of healthcare providers eligible for insurance benefit payments for services rendered. Supporters argued that the bill is about professional recognition and patient access, noting that athletic trainers hold master's degrees and are already licensed by the state to provide rehabilitative and musculoskeletal care.

Opponents from the insurance lobby contended that the bill is a mandate for a market that already has robust networks of physical therapists. The insurers also argued that supporters have failed to demonstrate that athletic trainers provide better outcomes or lower costs than physical therapists, asserting that their primary role should remain the stabilization and referral of injured individuals rather than long-term recovery billing.

HB 1941 & HB 2279: Copay Accumulator Programs

House Bills 1941 and 2279, co-sponsored by Representatives George Hruza and Bennie Cook, aim to protect vulnerable patients with chronic conditions by requiring that any out-of-pocket costs paid by third-party assistance programs be credited toward a patient's deductible and maximum out-of-pocket limit.

Representative Hruza described current insurance practices that exclude this assistance from deductibles as "patently unfair," effectively forcing patients to pay their deductibles twice. Supporters characterizing these "accumulator" programs as a mechanism for insurance companies to make more money on the back of the patient and pocket manufacturer funds while still demanding full payments from the insured.

Insurers were once again the primary opposition stating that these programs are essential for employers to manage the rising costs of healthcare and to ensure that all members of a group plan are treated equally. He expressed concern that regulating these plans would place an additional burden on the fragile, fully insured market, which currently represents only 28% of Missouri policies.

HB 3129: Physician Assistant Licensure Compact

House Bill 3129, sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley, proposes entering Missouri into the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact to facilitate reciprocal licensing with other member states. Representative Keathley emphasized that the bill is designed to increase healthcare access particularly in rural and underserved areas by allowing PAs to practice across state lines via telehealth or physical relocation without the burden of redundant licensing processes. Supporters, including the Missouri Division of Professional Registration, argued that the compact would help Missouri retain healthcare professionals and is a necessary step to secure federal rural health transformation grants.

Hearings Next Week

At this time, there are no hearings of interest currently scheduled for next week.



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Hearings are occurring but the trend in the Capitol this legislative session is to post hearings much closer to their scheduled date. Previously, hearings for the next week were often posted by Thursday. However, they are now being posted just a few days prior - often on Mondays.

If a hearing of interest is posted and we need testimony, we will let you know through this e-mail channel as soon as we can.

Family Physician Advocacy Day

We look forward to a great group that includes **you** for Family Physician Advocacy Day February 23 & 24. This two-day event is a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the state, share your story with lawmakers, and collectively advocate for policies that support patients and the practice of family medicine. Monday is dedicated to learning how to advocate, and we will go visit with legislators on Tuesday. The MAFP Team will work to schedule your legislative appointments. Early registration is appreciated to give your MAFP Team time to coordinate appointments. Details including schedule and registration can be found at <https://www.mo-afp.org/advocacy/advocacy-day/>. A full schedule is also included at the end of this report.

The host hotel is Courtyard by Marriott in Jefferson City. The last day to book in our group was January 24, 2026. MAFP has already expanded our room block, and we expect the hotel to completely sell out. You can try to book at this link [Missouri Academy of Family Physicians Lodging Link](#) or call (573) 761-1400 and tell them you are with MAFP.

Thank you for your continued membership and for the work you do every day for your patients and communities. Your engagement through comments, advocacy, and staying informed strengthens our shared voice.

MAFP Bill Report

MAFP is currently tracking 147 bills on behalf of our members, which are included in the priority legislation report.

2026 Dates of Interest

- February 27 - Last Day to file Senate Bills
- March 13 - Last Day to Place Senate Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- March 13 - Spring Break Begins
- March 23 - Return from Spring Break: Session Reconvenes
- April 6 - Easter Holiday
- April 15 - Last Day to Place House Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- May 8 - Last Day for Floor Action on Appropriation Bills
- May 15 - Last Day of Session
- September 16 – Veto Session



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Questions/Feedback

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FAMILY PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY DAY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 23

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome & Legislative Advocacy 101 <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i> <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	Advocacy Foundations: Understanding the Missouri Political Landscape <i>RJ Scherr Governmental Consultants</i>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Patients and Constituents: Service in Action <i>Jon Patterson, MD, Missouri Speaker of the House</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Break - Sponsored by CoxHealth
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	In the Office: Issues Review and Meeting with Lawmakers <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i>
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: The Legislative Meeting <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Open Advocacy Forum
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Personal Advocacy: Advocating for Your Career, Family, and Community <i>Misty Todd, MD</i>
1:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: Everyday Advocacy <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break – Sponsored by CoxHealth
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	AAFP Advocacy Update: What's Happening and How to Get Involved <i>Julie Harrison, AAFP Senior Manager, State Affairs & Member Advocacy</i>
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Workshop: Craft Your Personal Advocacy Plan <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
4:00 PM	Deliver Issues Document to Capitol Dinner on Own in Jefferson City
6:30 PM	Virtual Legislative Briefing for All MAFP Members Live Audience at Courtyard by Marriott

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	MAFP Board Meeting
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Legislative Meetings in Missouri State Capitol <i>Trolley Supported by SSM Health</i>