

# When To Speak Out?

**Dartmouth College**  
**Health Care Delivery Science**

R. Shawn Martin  
Executive Vice President & CEO





- Our **vision** is to transform health care to achieve optimal health for everyone.
- Our **mission** is to improve the health of patients, families, and communities by serving your needs with professionalism and creativity.

The AAFP proudly represents more than 136,000 family physicians and medical students.

**Today's media and political climate can be challenging to navigate.**

**We often find ourselves in the “Goldilocks Dilemma” – is the issue too hot or too cold for us to engage.**

**The AAFP is engaged in a constant evaluation of our internal & external environments.**

**We are always aware of what our members are saying and who they are directing their comments toward. We are also always aware of what others are saying about us.**

# Chronicle Looting Oakland

Violence: Protests spiral into vandalism, looting for 2nd night



# The Washington Post

## U.S. at a precipice as demonstrations intensify

Black Americans lament the toll of 'two viruses'

By Holly Rader, Anna Gorman, Sandra Williams and Jose A. Del Real

MINNEAPOLIS — The whole city still smoldered like fire, but Mayor Patterson wanted to survey the damage wrought by days of the last protests. As the dust settled, three neighbors in South Minneapolis, all of them Black, all of them trying to process what had happened the past few days, and

and more.

"First, we had the coronavirus, which is 'wiping us out,'" said Patterson, sitting down for lunch on the cold bench a little later. "And now it's this."

The neighbors debated the intensity of the protests, which left a trail of wreckage in their neighborhood off Lake Street. Had it gone too far? Should markets and commerce have been protected and disrupted, taking away a critical source of fresh produce?

The Washington Post reported the post office too.

But, as two Black people living in America in 2020, they understood the anger that had been deeply buried in the ground. This is what they agreed on: They were scared. They were mad. They were exhausted.

"This isn't just about George Floyd" and Patterson. "This is about years and years of being



26 STATES CALL IN NATIONAL GUARD  
2 dozen cities impose sweeping curfews

BY ISAAC SEANLEY BUCKNER, FELICIA RAMIREZ AND RASHA MCELROY

Protesters took to the streets for a sixth night Sunday, as anger over the Memorial Day death of a Black man in police custody burned across a country already reeling from the deadly coronavirus and the resulting economic crisis.

As the violent and chaotic weekend drew to a close, officials in more than two dozen cities had imposed curfews, including in Minneapolis and St. Paul, the epicenter of the unrest.

Governors in 26 states called in the National Guard, and several states agency clashed for a second day with demonstrators over the use of tear gas, when President Donald Trump used social media to demand that states and federal

prosecutors.

"I had to go to work today in violence that I had no intention of being in," said one woman in a crowd of protesters in Chicago. "I had to go to work today in violence that I had no intention of being in."

Protesters in Chicago and other cities have been protesting since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25.

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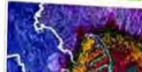
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# Sunday Los Angeles Times



# The New York Times



## Employers and Birth Control Coverage

	All Employers	Religiously Affiliated Employers
Should have to cover	40%	36%
Should be able to opt out for religious/moral reasons	51%	57%

Reema Kar  
@DrReemaKar  
@NRA, if #GunViolence wasn't my lane, my shoes wouldn't look like this. #ThisIsMyLane



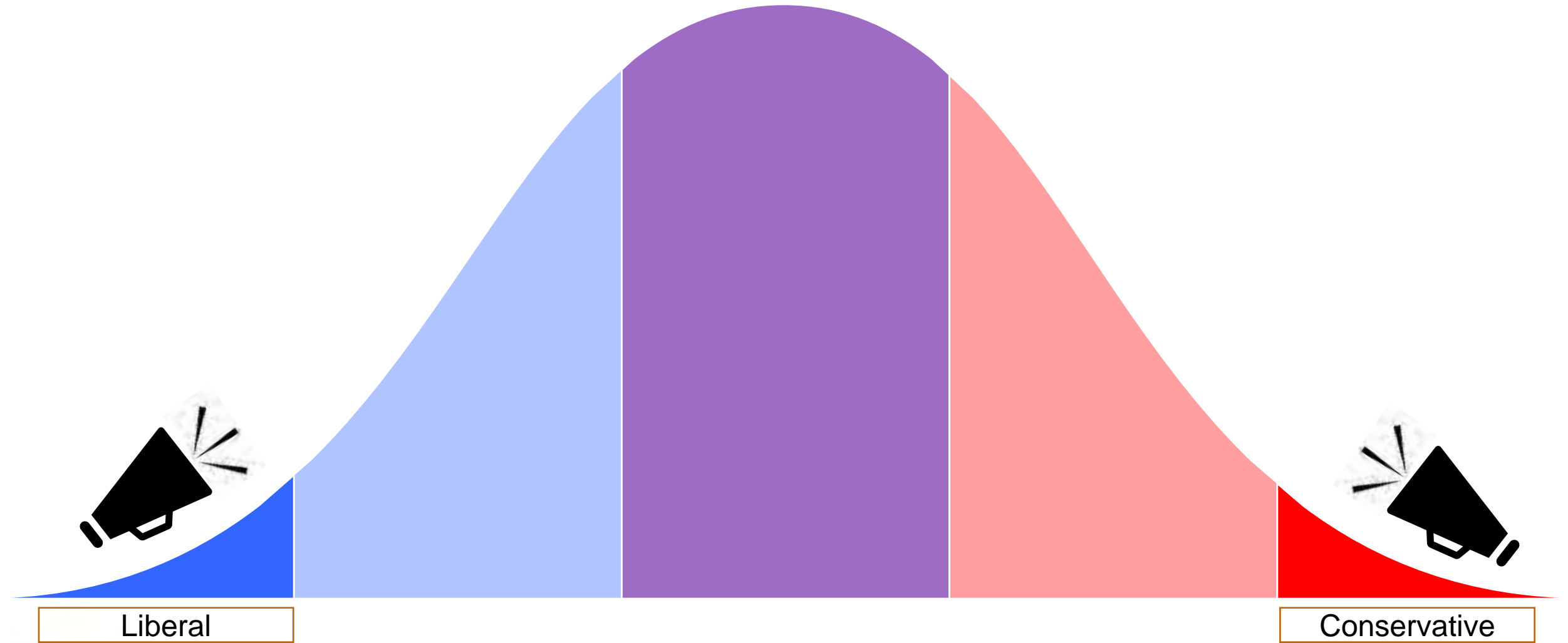
How Corporate Greed, Biased Science, and Coercive Government Threaten Our Human Rights, Our Health, and Our Children



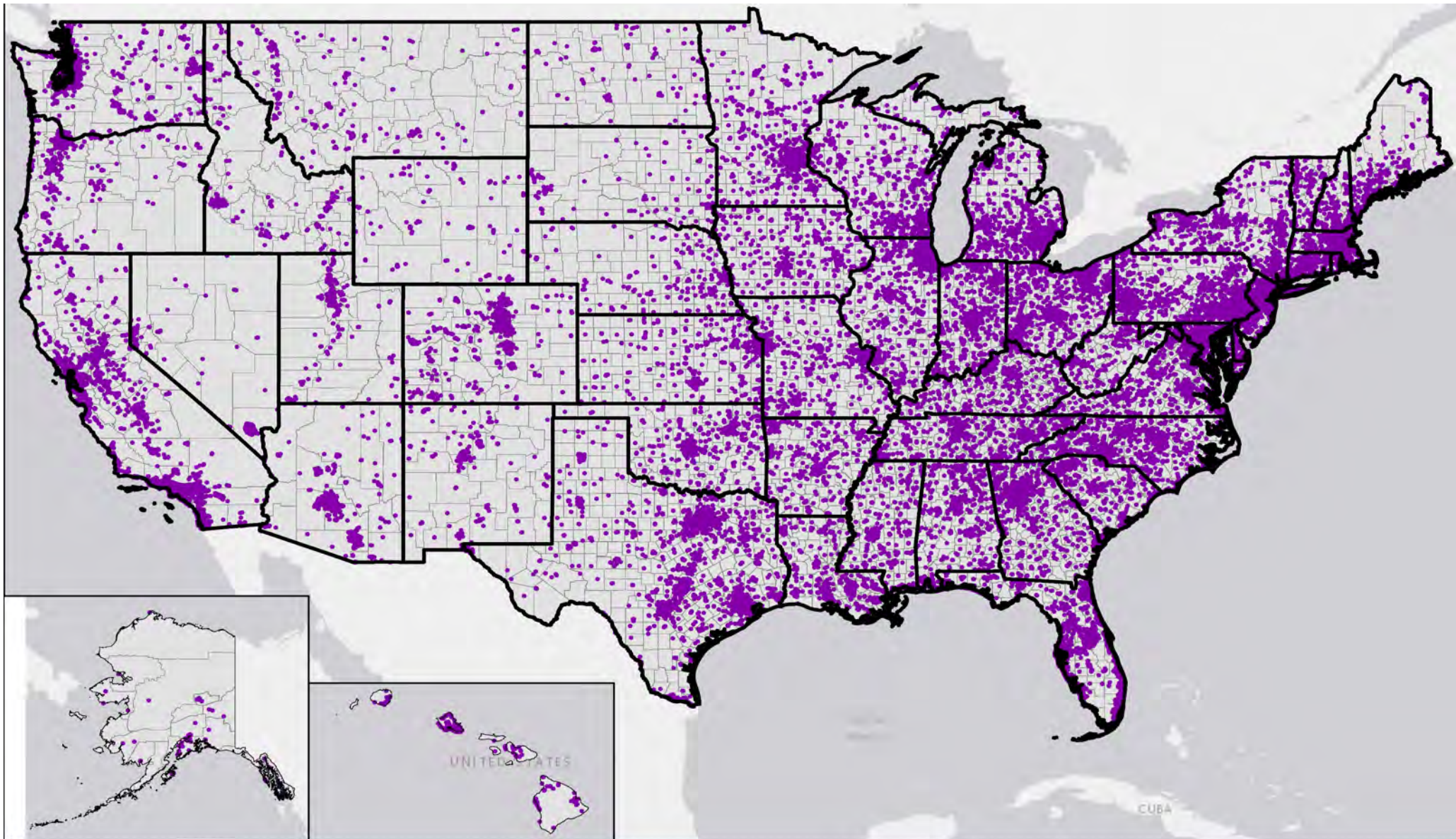
**Professional organizations such as the AAFP represent a membership that is politically diverse.**

**Our members have a shared mission, but not always a shared vision of how to achieve that mission.**

# Political Composition of AAFP Membership



# Family Physicians in the United States



Source: AMA Masterfile, July 2020  
Date of Map: December 15th, 2020



**The AAFP doesn't seek to be the first or loudest voice on any issue, we seek to be the most principled.**

# Case 1 – Professional Integrity

## Donald Trump

stated on October 30, 2020 in a campaign rally in Waterford, Mich.:

**“Our doctors get more money if somebody dies from COVID. ... So what they do is they say, ‘I’m sorry, but, you know, everybody dies of COVID.’”**

# Escalation of the Issue

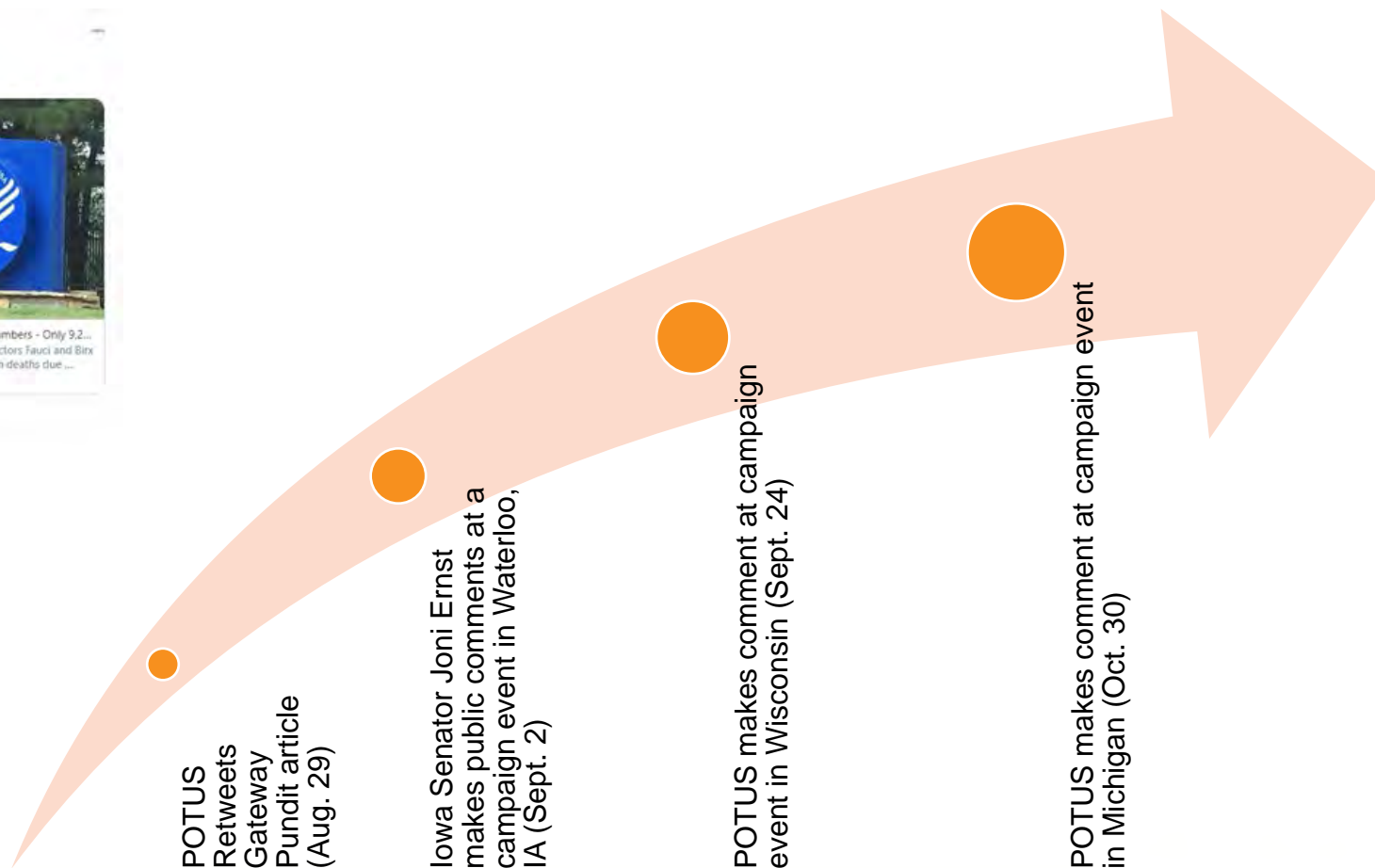


POTUS  
Retweets  
Gateway  
Pundit article  
(Aug. 29)

Iowa Senator Joni Ernst  
makes public comments at a  
campaign event in Waterloo,  
IA (Sept. 2)

POTUS makes comment at campaign  
event in Wisconsin (Sept. 24)

POTUS makes comment at campaign event  
in Michigan (Oct. 30)



# AAFP Response

**“Suggesting that physicians are artificially inflating COVID-19 mortality numbers for financial gain undermines the global standards for tracking this important information.”**

**Accurately capturing data on COVID-19 deaths is critical for pandemic response**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020

Statement attributable to:

Ada D. Stewart, MD

President

American Academy of Family Physicians

“Capturing accurate data on COVID-19-related deaths is critical in understanding how to help communities live in the midst of a global pandemic. Suggesting that physicians are artificially inflating COVID-19 mortality numbers for financial gain undermines the global standards for tracking this important information.

“COVID-19 can cause additional medical conditions, such as a stroke or pneumonia, generate long-term effects, or exacerbate existing controllable medical conditions that can result in death. Had it not been for COVID-19, these patients would likely still be with us today.

“We would like to thank family physicians and all other health care professionals for the personal sacrifices they continue to make to help us fight this terrible virus.”

**Editor's Note:** To arrange an interview with Dr. Stewart, contact Megan Moriarty, [913-302-8627](tel:913-302-8627), or [mmoriarty@aafp.org](mailto:mmoriarty@aafp.org).

# Case 2 – George Floyd

On May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd died after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by an officer's knee in an episode that was captured on video, touching off nationwide protests.

Racism is a  
Public Health Crisis



# Escalation of the Issue



Ahmaud  
Arbery  
Feb. 23

Breonna  
Taylor  
March 13

George  
Floyd  
May 25



# AAFP Response

***“As a health care organization, the AAFP considers racism a public health crisis. The elimination of health disparities will not be achieved without first acknowledging racism’s contribution to health and social inequalities.”***

## AAFP Condemns All Forms of Racism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sunday, May 31, 2020

Statement attributable to:  
Gary L. LeRoy, MD  
President  
American Academy of Family Physicians

“The American Academy of Family Physicians is deeply concerned about the prevalence of discriminatory and racist acts that are resulting in the unwarranted deaths and marginalization of people of color. Family physicians across the nation are grieving with and for their communities, and we join with our members in speaking out against all forms of [institutional racism](#). What is happening in our communities today, and what has been happening in our country for decades, is unacceptable.

“As a health care organization, the AAFP considers racism a public health crisis. The elimination of health disparities will not be achieved without first acknowledging racism’s contribution to health and social inequalities. This includes inequitable access to quality health care services. Our members see the negative health outcomes of racism in their patients who are often at an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, low birth weight, premature birth and infant mortality.

“Family physicians are uniquely woven into the social fabric of their respective communities. We take seriously our mission to ensure that all of our patients and their families feel valued and respected as equal members of society. We support family physicians in their efforts to actively dismantle implicit racist and discriminatory institutional practices in their communities. To assist our members, the AAFP established the [Center for Diversity and Health Equity](#) in 2017 to empower all family physicians to take action and confront health disparities head on. We will continue to use our organization’s platform and voice to advance the conversation and take action against racial injustice.

“In particular [discriminatory policing](#), coupled with the use of excessive force, pose health and safety hazards to individuals and populations residing in targeted communities. This is particularly apparent for people of color and other socially marginalized groups.

“It is incumbent upon all of us to engage in an honest discussion about how to ensure that health outcomes and personal safety are not determined by the color of a person’s skin.”



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

**STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA**