

2025 Impact Report Doctors for America

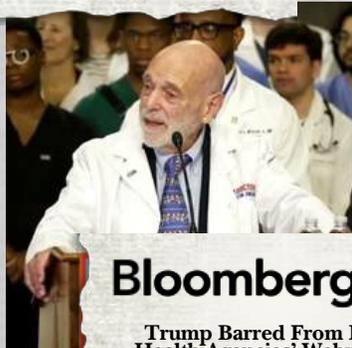


NEW YORK POST

RFK Jr. grilled by Republicans, Democrats in heated Senate hearing: 'We have to fire people'

Medscape

Trump-Era Silence of AMA, Other Doc Groups Vexes Some Physicians



Bloomberg Law

Trump Barred From Removing Health Agencies' Webpages, Data



MEDPAGE TODAY

Physician Group Sues Trump Health Agencies Over Scrubbed Sites, Data

Newsweek

Doctors Sue Trump Administration for Scrubbing Data from Government Sites



CBS NEWS

How Faulty Drug Tests Are Turning New Moms' Lives Upside-Down



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Letters from Leadership



Christine Petrin, MD, MPH
President, Doctors for America

Over the past year, Doctors for America reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to defending patients' health and dignity amid extraordinary political and legal uncertainty. As the first year of the Trump Administration ushered in sweeping policy proposals that threatened access to care, undermined public health infrastructure, and deepened inequities, DFA members rose to the moment by caring for patients, challenging harmful policies in the courts, and advocating in communities across the country. With urgency and resolve, our members led and supported litigation, mobilized to protect reproductive health care and Medicaid, and advanced science-based, patient-centered policy at every level of government.

As I complete my term as President, I do so with deep gratitude for this community and great confidence in DFA's future. It is an honor to pass the baton to our incoming President, Dr. Meena Bewtra, whose leadership and vision will guide the organization forward. This impact report reflects not only a year of steadfast commitment to health justice, but a strong and resilient organization prepared to meet the challenges ahead.



Angie Bakke, MBA
Executive Director, Doctors for America

This year tested every assumption about stability in health care and public health. In the face of relentless political attacks on science, equity, and patient autonomy, Doctors for America demonstrated that physician-led advocacy is not optional, it is essential. Across the country, DFA members transformed concern into action, showing up in courtrooms, legislatures, clinics, and communities to defend evidence-based medicine and stand with patients whose care and dignity were placed at risk.

What continues to set DFA apart is the power of its people. Our strength lies in clinicians and trainees who bring lived experience, moral clarity, and clinical expertise to moments that demand leadership. As we look ahead, DFA remains committed to building a health care system, and a democracy, that truly works for everyone. We move forward with resolve, gratitude, and confidence in the collective impact of physicians advocating together for their patients and communities.

DFA Projects

The year 2025 was rough. Day after day, we've faced devastating news often touching our communities directly, our families, and your patients. This is not the future many of us imagined for this country. Despite the constant subversion tactics, Doctors for America took bold action to protect patients and defend evidence-based care.

Together, we mobilized physician advocates in all 50 states to fight dangerous cuts to Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare protecting access to care for millions of families. We stood up to political attacks on public health agencies, safeguarding the systems that keep our communities safe. We brought physicians' voices directly into the courtroom through six strategic litigation actions, ensuring judges understood the real-world harm of policies driven by ideology, not science. And we were on the ground at the RFK Jr. Senate Finance hearing. DFA trained and empowered thousands of clinicians to advocate for their patients through fellowships, workshops, and national campaigns building a movement that will last.



Judicial Advocacy Partnerships



New York University Science, Health & Information Clinic (SHIC)



Harvard CyberLaw Clinic



Georgetown Law Intellectual Property and Information Policy (iPIP) Clinic



University of Tulsa Law School



University of Minnesota Law School Gun Violence Prevention Clinic

Lawsuits

- In February 2025, with Public Citizen, DFA sued federal agencies (HHS, CDC, FDA, OPM) to restore public health data and websites removed following executive orders. The lawsuit, *Doctors for America v. Office of Personnel Management*, alleged violations of the Administrative Procedure Act and Paperwork Reduction Act. By December 2025, 195 sites with crucial data were restored.
- Doctors for America is a plaintiff in *City of Columbus et al. v. Kennedy et al.*, challenging the federal government's "Marketplace Integrity and Affordability" rule. In August 2025, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking key provisions that could have caused an estimated 2 million people to lose health coverage, citing likely violations of federal law. Represented by Democracy Forward, DFA continues to advance the case, with the harmful provisions suspended pending further litigation or appeal.

Other Highlights

- Signed on to 55+ letters to Congress.
- Issued public statements and press releases responding to senior federal health nominations (HHS, FDA, NIH, CDC, surgeon general).
- Joined in seven amicus briefs in the following cases: 1) *Boehringer Ingelheim v. HHS*, 2) *Braidwood v. Becerra*, HHS 3) *Novartis v. HHS* 4) *National Infusion Center Association, et. al. v. Becerra*, HHS 5) *Teva Pharmaceuticals, et. al. v. RFK Jr.*, HHS 6) *Equal Mean Equal v. Trump* 7) *National Infusion Center Ass'n v. Kennedy (HHS/CMS)*.



Access to Affordable Care

DFA physician advocates elevated patient voices at high-profile national events, underscoring the real-world consequences of health policy decisions. Zeina Saliba, MD, and Anand Singh, MD, joined a panel with U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to highlight the critical role of affordable health insurance in protecting patient health. In addition, DFA member Ealena Callender, MD, spoke alongside legislators at a press conference, warning of the harmful health impacts of Medicaid cuts, ACA premium increases, and loss of coverage for patients.



When people lose access to healthcare, the consequences are immediate and devastating - especially for women.
-Dr. Ealena Callender



Other Highlights

- DFA advocate Tom Ellison, MD, testified at the Steering & Policy Hearing on the Republican Health Care Crisis. Dr. Ellison advocated for extended ACA tax credits and the need to protect health coverage for patients.
- Hosted “Storytelling for Resistance” event, partnering with Economic Security Project and Civic Health Alliance.
- Initiated a video storytelling campaign to share the impact of federal cuts including the potential cut of the ACA tax credits.

250+

messages urging Congress to extend enhanced ACA premium tax credits.

700+

messages successfully opposing the EPIC Act.

2,400

messages opposing Medicaid cuts through the Some Cuts Never Heal campaign.

200

firsthand advocate testimonies on Medicaid cuts shared with the Senate HELP Committee.



FDA Task Force

Over the past year, DFA built strong relationships with Congressional leadership and directly engaged with FDA leadership. This included a meeting with FDA Commissioner Marty Makary at the White Oak Campus. In addition, DFA physician experts also provided formal testimony at two major Congressional proceedings. Reshma Ramachandran, MD, testified before the Senate HELP Committee on the Future of Biotech and Task Force Chair Jan Krommes, MD, spoke at a press conference related to the RFK Jr. confirmation hearing.



55+

congressional meetings conducted during 5 in-person fly-ins, including direct engagement with FDA leadership.

15+

public statements and press releases issued responding to FDA approvals, federal funding packages, and transparency and scientific integrity in federal agencies.

10+

formal public comments submitted to federal agencies on AI-enabled digital mental health devices, accelerated approval pathways, and more.



My patients with chronic conditions that require frequent monitoring and adjusting of their treatments through our monthly telehealth appointments but cannot walk or move without great difficulty are now asking their family members if they might be able to borrow money to pay out of pocket for a telehealth visit out of desperation.

-Reshma Ramachandran, MD



Other Highlights

- Participated in the first three FDA Prescription Drug User Fee stakeholder meetings.
- Published a response letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in opposition to the piece “Priorities for a New FDA” authored by FDA leadership.
- Hosted 4 webinars with experts on issues such as FDA leadership changes, FDA regulation of food, vaccine recommendation and approvals, FDA expert panels and direct to consumer advertising.

Community Health and Prevention

DFA advocates engaged in high-profile moments, including a press conference with Senator Bernie Sanders, and national media engagement on SAMHSA cuts. DFA also submitted formal public comments, partnered on gun violence prevention advocacy, and released new toolkits focused on opioid use disorder screening and overdose prevention.



SEPTEMBER 9, 2025



“

Mr. Secretary, why are you blatantly attacking shots to protect children from preventable life-threatening illnesses, and not the shots from gun violence - the leading cause of death in America?

-Woodie Kessel, MD

”

Forbes | BREAKING NEWS

Doctors For America Pediatrician Drops The Hammer On HHS Sec. RFK Jr. Over 'Untruthful' Comments

During a press briefing held by Sen. Bernie Sanders, Woodie Kessel, MD criticized RFK Jr. for comments he made about vaccines.

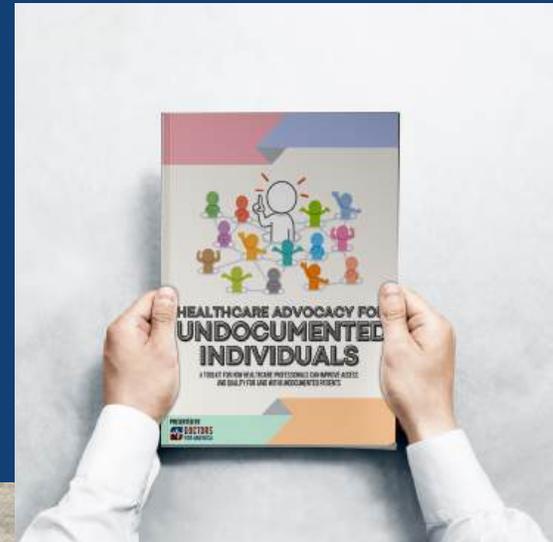
Other Highlights

- Submitted public comments on HHS’s deregulatory efforts and the September 2025 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Meeting.
- Partnered with the Newtown Action Alliance for a Lunch & Lobby and After Hours evening session on Ethan’s Law with Senator Richard Blumenthal.
- Issued 25+ statements and press releases on attacks on public health infrastructure, vaccines, and gun violence.



Health Justice and Equity

Doctors for America worked to defend care under attack, including developing a toolkit for healthcare advocacy for undocumented patients, a training for navigating tough conversations around reproductive care, and a webinar equipping advocates with strategies to confront ongoing attacks on trans healthcare.



MEDPAGE TODAY®

Reproductive care after Roe: Why silence is not an option

As internists, Christine Petrin, MD, MPH and Susan Thompson Hingle, MD bring a unique lens to the reproductive health crisis.

We must reshape the conversation. We must lead with compassion, evidence, and integrity. And we must remind the country that access to reproductive care, abortion included, is about more than rights. It is about survival.

Other Highlights

- Partnered with Georgetown University’s iPIP Clinic to develop a guide on provider protections under Washington, D.C.’s gender-affirming care shield law and with the University of Tulsa Law School’s Reproductive Health Practicum to create an EMTALA guide for reproductive care in Oklahoma.
- Submitted a Memo of Support for New York’s Shield Law 2.0 to strengthen reproductive and gender-affirming care protections.
- Produced a Physician Safety Guide to help clinicians assess their safety while engaging in healthcare advocacy.
- As a cofounder of the Reproductive Health Coalition, DFA helped train nearly 400 physicians, trainees, advanced practice clinicians, and advocates on navigating conversations in reproductive care - equipping them to reframe discussions about abortion by centering empathy and shared values.

2025 Copello Health Advocacy Fellowship



Adily Elmi, MD
Resident

Dr. Adily Elmi, internal medicine resident, led advocacy by addressing risks in direct-to-consumer compounded medications. Dr. Elmi focused on FDA regulatory gaps, clinician education, and patient safety. Culminating in an evidence-based legislative toolkit and Capitol Hill advocacy to strengthen oversight of unregulated compounding platforms, particularly for insulin and GLP-1 medications.



Noa Erlitzki
Medical Student

Noa Erlitzki, an MD-PhD student, developed the “Daily Five” advocacy framework, lowering barriers to clinician engagement. She provided simple, actionable steps— calling legislators, social media advocacy, storytelling, policy actions, and peer recruitment— to empower physicians with tools to bolster sustained public health advocacy.



Hailey Greenstone
Medical Student

Hailey Greenstone centered around creating a gender-affirming care “Know Your Rights” guide for physicians. In collaboration with DFA and the Georgetown Law Clinic, Hailey developed legally grounded guidance to help providers navigate complex multi-state licensing and care laws, and led a protected educational webinar to safely disseminate the resource amid a hostile political climate.



Jacques Halabi, MD
Fellow

Dr. Jacques Halabi, gastroenterology fellow, examined the impact of private equity on healthcare delivery, patient outcomes, and community stability. Dr. Halabi’s work combined patient storytelling, expert interviews, conference presentations, op-ed writing, and legislative outreach to raise awareness, and advocating for stronger oversight and regulation of P.E. involvement in medical settings.



Lynne Kerr, MD, PhD
Retired Physician

Dr. Lynne Kerr, retired physician-scientist / pediatric neurologist, centered on advancing physician advocacy education and protecting access to care. Her work included developing an advocacy curriculum for students, participating in federal / state policy advocacy on Medicaid and drug approval, publishing op-eds, moderating national forums, and strengthening local health policy engagement.



Shreya Mandava, MD
Resident

Dr. Shreya Mandava, PGY2 Otolaryngology–Head and Neck surgery resident, focused on drug and medical shortages impacting patient care. Her work included policy research through the FDA task force, public comment on pharmaceutical supply chains, congressional advocacy, and clinician engagement to advance legislative solutions addressing shortages and protecting access to treatment.



Olivia Rizzo, MD
Resident

Dr. Olivia Rizzo, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellow, focused on building physician advocacy capacity within graduate medical education. Dr. Rizzo developed and delivered advocacy curricula for residents, including sessions on health systems, op-ed writing, and planetary health. This work contributed to public health storytelling and federal policy comments, and mobilized co-residents to participate in national advocacy training and ongoing policy engagement.

2025 Copello Health Advocacy Fellowship



Natalie Robiou, MD
Physician

Dr. Natalie Robiou’s capstone centered on hands-on health advocacy work. Dr. Robiou developed a Medicaid advocacy toolkit, authored a FDA public comment on infant formula safety, led phone banking and policy fly-ins, and created educational resources addressing pediatric mental health and social media harms, translating policy engagement into practical tools for physicians.



Elle Saine, MD
Fellow

Dr. Elle Saine, Infectious Disease fellow, developed and implemented a six-session advocacy curriculum for infectious diseases fellows. Dr. Saine designed and led sessions focused on skill-building exercises to introduce health policy, public health advocacy, and communication skills, equipping fellows to engage in legislative advocacy, protect public health infrastructure, and apply advocacy skills throughout their careers.



Whitney Sambhariya, MD
Resident

Dr. Whitney Sambhariya, first-year Ophthalmology resident, led advocacy for NIH and National Eye Institute funding. Dr. Sambhariya produced op-eds and podcast content, led advocacy initiatives within the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, supported national storytelling efforts, trainee mentoring, and multiple Capitol Hill visits to meet legislators—presenting research and directly promoting sustained funding for vision research and trainee development.



Anusha Singh
Medical Student

Anusha Singh’s capstone project focused on reproductive justice advocacy, including organizing and testifying in state / national campaigns to repeal the tampon tax, leading the first National Period Day, coordinating medical student lobby days, and developing “how to testify” advocacy toolkits. Dr. Singh secured major funding for free period products in schools and trained physicians and trainees through workshops, media, and coalition-based advocacy.



Dani Sychowski,
Medical Student

Dani Sychowski, a fourth-year medical student, led national and local gun violence prevention advocacy. Her capstone included co-chairing the GVP subcommittee, authoring an adopted medical school curriculum resolution, organizing advocacy events, creating physician-focused educational materials and infographics, collaborating with partner organizations, and expanding community training initiatives like Stop the Bleed.



Colin Wilson
Medical Student

Colin Wilson focused on gun violence prevention and community health advocacy. He led firearm safety workshops across three medical school campuses, co-led AGRs, collected survivor stories, supported Ethan’s Law through education and legislative outreach, organized student advocacy statewide, issued public health statements, and mobilized physicians and students around Medicaid protection and community-based gun safety efforts.

Organizational Statistics

Donations

Tax-deductible donations help DFA mobilize doctors and medical students across the country to fight for everyone to have access to affordable, equitable, high-quality health care and the opportunity to lead a healthier life.



Membership Revenue

Doctors for America mobilizes the medical community to become leaders in placing patients over politics to improve the health of our patients, communities, and our nation. Members unlock a new world of advocacy with an all-access pass to advocacy alerts, events, resources, trainings, and more.



2025 Grant Funders



2025 DFA Funding

- Grants - 88%
- Membership Revenue - 6%
- Donations - 6%

