2019-2020 Advocacy Agenda

Health is a Human Right.
Advocating for the communities we serve

Providence St. Joseph Health is a not-for-profit health system committed to improving the health of the communities we serve. Each year we serve millions of people across seven western states. Embedded in our mission is a call to serve those who are poor and vulnerable, and to be steadfast on their behalf.

Across our states and in Washington, D.C., our government affairs team is a leading voice in advancing health and social policy. Our advocacy and engagement reflects our deep commitment to the Medicaid and Medicare programs, better mental health, improving the health of our communities, and all of the priorities in this agenda.

In a changing health care landscape, our organization is planning and advocating for the next century of health for a better world. We will be joining with like-minded partners and lawmakers to work on policies that have a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of those we serve.

Sincerely,

Ali Santore
Group Vice President,
Government Affairs and Social Responsibility

FAST FACTS

- 119,000 caregivers
- $1.6 billion community benefit
- 5.2 million unique patients served
- 16 supportive housing programs
- 51 hospitals
- 973 clinics
- 2.1 million covered lives
- High school nursing schools & university
We are advancing health for a better world

Inspired by our belief that health is a human right, our family of organizations is ready to partner with lawmakers on policies that respond to the changing health needs and priorities of patients and consumers.

Enable affordable access and coverage

- **Sustain Medicaid and Medicare coverage:** Preserve gains in health insurance coverage, especially for those who depend on Medicaid and Medicare. Support the growth of Medicare Advantage.
- **Expand commercial coverage:** Support expansion of affordable commercial coverage and stabilization of state health insurance markets.

Support integrated care at every stage of life

- **Enable whole person care:** Expand seamless health care across all services, with a special emphasis on palliative and end-of-life care.
- **Create price transparency:** Support reasonable policy to help health care consumers understand their costs.
- **Reduce medication costs:** Help lower the cost of prescriptions and increase visibility into pricing. Protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
- **Fill provider gaps:** Address provider shortages, especially in rural and underserved communities.

Advance new care models

- **Reduce cost, help patients:** Pave the way for innovative care models, including telehealth, to reduce cost and increase flexibility in the best interests of patients.
- **Adopt the best care models:** Promote the creation and adoption of value-based payment models. Support them by reducing administrative burden and increasing integration between payers and providers.

Improve access to mental health care

- **Place support in the community:** Increase appropriate access to mental health and substance use care with focused, community-based solutions.
- **Give hope to the suffering:** Respond to the growing opioid crisis and reduce suffering from addiction.

Promote social justice and common good

- **Preserve tailored community benefit:** Ensure reasonable charity care and community benefit policies to respond to the unique needs of communities.
- **Go upstream to improve health:** Increase focus on social determinants of health, including expanding access to affordable, stable housing and to education.
- **Be a voice for the vulnerable:** Seek justice for those most vulnerable among us, especially immigrants and victims of human trafficking.
- **Care for the earth:** Support policies that improve stewardship of our environment.
- **Advance global health:** Promote and strengthen international development to improve health outcomes.
- **Improve public health:** Support common-sense gun safety measures to reduce injuries and deaths.
- **Encourage charitable giving:** Create incentives for those who want to support nonprofit health care.