

## ACTION REQUIRED: AADA Principles for Health System Reform

Dear AADA Board of Directors:

Attached for your review/approval is an updated version of the AADA's *Principles for Health System Reform*. These principles were first drafted and approved by the Board in 2009 as the Academy was engaging in the debate around the Affordable Care Act. Given the current debate on repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Congressional Policy Committee and the Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy felt it important to revisit these principles and to solidify them as a guide to decision-making moving forward. The Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy seeks Board approval via email ballot given the rapidity in which legislation is moving.

*Thank you.*

*Cyndi*

*Tel: (847) 240-1041*

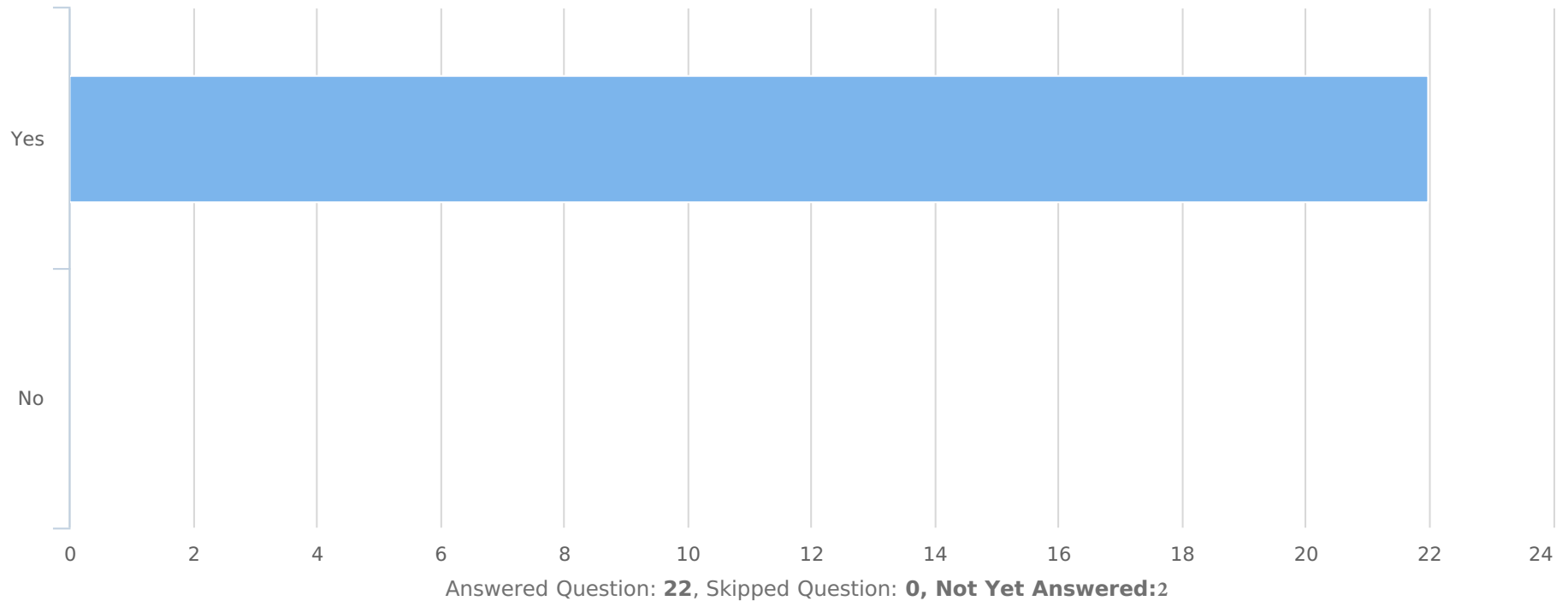
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Total Invited to Survey: 24

Total Finished Survey: 22

## I approve the AADA Principles for Health System Reform.



### Comments

[Suzanne Olbricht](#) on 3/18/2017 7:06 PM

I suggest consideration of putting access in the second bullet too as in "access, choice and ...." As we have learned, having insurance does not automatically equate having access and so I would include access in as many places as possible

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[Barbara Mathes](#) on 3/20/2017 4:23 PM

Is there prioritization among these, i.e. if legislation includes some of these but not others, do we endorse?

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[Abel Torres](#) on 3/21/2017 8:23 AM

I agree with the principles but believe we should add some wording to the effect of "that we also believe that regulatory changes and progress made, as well as associated legislation that the AADA has lobbied hard for and been achieved in

areas such as network adequacy, funding for research, EHR data sharing etc., should be preserved because it has been the result of Public Feedback? Abel

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## **AADA Health System Reform Principles**

*(Approved by the AADA Board of Directors, 2009)*

*(Revised and Approved by the Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy March 2017)*

*The American Academy of Dermatology Association established these principles to guide physician leadership in taking policy positions and advocating for health system reform. At the root of these guiding principles is the need to preserve the patient-physician relationship.*

- Americans should have access to affordable, quality dermatologic health care, and individuals should be free to choose their own physicians and the health insurance that best meets their needs.
- Health system reform must preserve diverse coverage options and ensure adequate and transparent networks of specialists and subspecialists offered by a multitude of insurers – maintaining choice and flexibility for patients and doctors.
- Health system reform and efforts to curb growth in health care costs must not compromise quality care or harm the patient-physician relationship.
- Health system reform should include repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which, if required to act, would be empowered to make significant decisions about Medicare policy and payment decisions without a mechanism for public accountability or congressional oversight.
- Health system reform should eliminate a multitude of regulatory and administrative burdens that increase costs and do not improve patient care.
- Health system reform should include medical liability relief.
- New payment models, quality measurement, data collection, including, but not limited to clinical data registries, and reporting must be driven by physicians and physician specialty organizations. The purpose of these efforts must prioritize quality improvement over cost reduction, and such programs should be voluntary.
- Any new insurance coverage option must be voluntary for physicians, pay physicians fairly, and compete on a level playing field to prevent crowd-out of existing plans.
- Health system reform should provide a means for those with pre-existing conditions to obtain useful and affordable coverage.
- Health system reform should ensure that health care premiums are primarily spent on providing care to patients.