

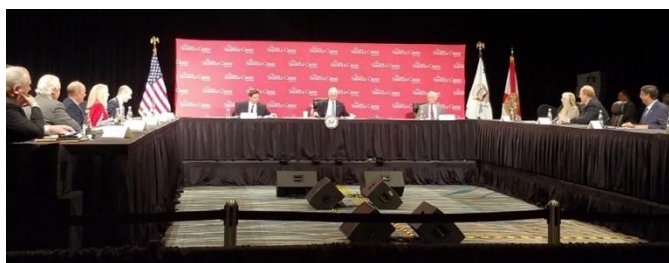


AID's TOP 10

Highlights of 2020

Amidst a pandemic, our fight to help independent doctors continued in 2020. Here are the year's top 10 highlights, which would not have been possible without the support of our members. Please see our 2020 Highlights [slideshow here](#).

1. We were on the front lines in the fight for health-care price transparency. We partnered with [Patient Rights Advocate](#), an organization with strong Washington connections devoted exclusively to this issue. We helped draft [this letter](#) representing 3 million Americans in support of the Administration's transparency rule. We wrote numerous opinion pieces, and letters to editors and U.S. lawmakers to promote federal laws and transparency rules. In the last week of the year, we were rewarded with a positive federal appeals court decision that upheld the rule requiring hospitals to show their prices starting in 2021, despite a vigorous legal challenge by the American Hospital Association and its cohort.



2. We attended Mike Pence's townhall. When Vice President Mike Pence visited Florida to meet with Gov. Ron DeSantis and leaders in hospitality to discuss the re-opening of the state's tourism industry, AID's Executive Director Marni Jameson Carey secured a press pass. She was among the very few selected to attend the tightly controlled, socially distanced event. We used the opportunity to hand deliver an AID press

kit to Mr. Pence, which contained [this letter](#) about why we need to save America's independent doctors. She then wrote a [guest column](#) for the Orlando Sentinel.

3. We launched AID Direct, a forum for members who have direct-care or concierge practices, or who offer a cash-pay model or would like to. Created in response to member demand, AID Direct is a member benefit open to all specialties. Our [AID-Direct forum page](#) provides resources, industry updates, and a network for members looking to opt out of third-party payer arrangements and deliver health care their way.



4. We welcomed AdvancedMD as a sponsor. Underscoring its support for America's independent doctors, [AdvancedMD](#), a health-care technology company that offers independent doctors an integrated suite of cloud solutions, became AID's newest corporate sponsor. As part of its sponsorship, AdvancedMD underwrote half of the \$500 annual AID membership dues for the next 40 doctors who joined AID, covering their first year of membership.



Op-ed

5. Throughout the year, we worked with AID members to write opinion pieces and letters to editors. Our members helped lend voice to the need for getting a health-care price transparency bill into law by writing opinion pieces for newspapers in their respective states. We appreciate the strong work by Dr. Craig Clark (Iowa) – [Americans deserve a price-transparent health-care system](#); – [Increase price transparency](#), Dr. Michael Ciampi (Maine) – [Patients need to see health-care prices to shop for better value](#); Dr. Dale Owen (North Carolina) – [Price transparency is the key to controlling health care costs](#); Dr. Keith Berger (Virginia) – [Make health-care pricing more transparent](#); and Dr. Mark Lopatin (Pennsylvania) – [Lawmakers need to vote for health-care price transparency](#); as well as by Dr. Joel Chodos (Delaware), Dr. Cristin Dickerson (Texas), Dr. Norm Donati (Georgia), and Dr. Jeff Gold (Massachusetts), who also wrote pieces for newspapers in their states. On our behalf, Dr. Richard Tyer (Texas) and Dr. Rich Kirkpatrick (Washington State) sent letters to their senators, and AID’s cofounder Tom Thomas co-wrote [this editorial](#) for *Townhall*, For True Health Care Transparency, Insurers Must Show Prices, Too.

6. We continued our series in Medical Economics. AID wrote several commentaries for the outlet expressing AID’s mission: [How nonprofit hospitals get away with the biggest rip off in America](#), [May I have my medical records, please? The best thing that almost happened to health care](#), [COVID-19 could be health care’s cure](#), and [Price Transparency: It’s just what the doctor ordered](#).

Medical Economics[®]

7. We got covered. Besides serving as a source for many media outlets that reached out to AID for the independent doctor perspective, we were featured on podcasts, including [Healthcare Confidential](#), and [Primary Care Cures](#). We also wrote pieces for *Townhall*, including [Want to Lower Health Care Costs? So Do Doctors](#).



8. We were advisors for a forthcoming hospital documentary. Working with an accomplished producer who aims to shed light on the disparity between the excessive money flowing into nonprofit (tax-exempt) hospitals — and to their executives — and the lack of charitable care they provide the communities who subsidize them, AID provided insights and served as a sounding board for a soon-to-be-released documentary. Stay tuned.

9. We launched a New York chapter of AID. In November, 20 New York doctors banded together to join AID and form a New York State chapter. With strength in numbers, this group will raise the profile of independent doctors in the Empire State. New York becomes AID’s sixth chapter, joining others in California, the Carolinas, Florida, New England, Texas, and a Dental Alliance.



10. We kept our members informed. Through more than 80 emailed member updates and newsflashes sent through the year, AID kept its members up to date on relevant news impacting independent practices. Among the bulletins were tips for practice survival during the pandemic, a patient packet with materials to educate patients about why seeing an independent doctor is to their advantage, and a new message board, where members ask questions, post jobs, sell services, and make announcements.

Despite a year plagued by COVID-19, which sent many practices into uncertain financial times, AID’s membership held steady as did our presence in more than 40 states. We appreciate the steadfast support of so many independent doctors as we found new and virtual ways to tell our story.