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From the 26th Forum for Behavioral Sciences “...*Dr. Kruse has pioneered cooperative relationships between osteopathic and allopathic institutions and interprofessional systems of care. He has a special interest in population health to inform effective policies and improve health care systems.*” After the RWJ Academic Family Medicine fellowship at the University of Missouri, I have held leadership positions in residency training (SIU-Quincy Program Director 1991-2003), and medical student education (guiding implementation of the new SIU-SOM curriculum as Curriculum Committee Chair). Since 1997, I have chaired the SIU Department of Family & Community Medicine. My position as chair of the ADFM Legislative Affairs Committee has been a springboard to advisory and advocacy bodies, including the STFM and ADFM Board of Directors, the Academic Family Medicine Advocacy Committee, COGME, and the Illinois State Board of Health.

ADFM must take the main leadership role in forging a common vision and a unified voice for Academic Family Medicine for the development of an effective, efficient and equitable healthcare system. This should be accomplished by coalitions and positive working relationships among all family medicine organizations, with the leadership of academic medicine, with legislators and regulators, and with major employers. The message must be based on the best evidence, have understanding of the opinions of others, be packaged so that it is comprehended by all, and be articulated with clarity. My platform is to make ADFM the main agent of unification for better medical education, healthcare delivery and health in this time of tremendous opportunity.