



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Florida Chapter ACP, Inc.

Legislative Update

March 7, 2008

While the budgetary crisis precluded meaningful action on most legislation this past week, storm clouds were gathering for the approaching political storms.

For instance, bills have again been filed that would restrict or eliminate a physician's right to self-insure (SB 2694 and SB 1420), and ARNPs are again seeking the right to prescribe narcotics (SB 972 and HB 515). On a positive note, bills have been filed to provide civil immunity to physicians who provide emergency services (HB 839 and SB 844) and to prevent salons from dispensing prescription dermal fillers.

Medicine's most ambitious agenda item is its proposal to shorten the look-back period for insurance company and HMO audits and to mandate that these payors accept a patient-authorized assignment of benefits. These bills (SB 1012 and HB 405) have already passed one committee each, and further action is expected in the near future.

This year promises to be another donnybrook, but we are ready and committed to the upcoming battles.

Special thanks go to Legislative Chair N.H. Tucker, III, M.D., FACP; who accompanied staff on March 5th to lobby the Managed Care Bill.

Chapter members with legislative issues or questions may contact our lobbyist, Christopher L. Nuland, via e-mail at nulandlaw@aol.com. Thank you.