



# Florida Chapter Advocate E-News



February 5, 2016

Michelle L. Rossi, MD FACP, President/Governor ❖ John G. Langdon, MD FACP, Governor

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—FEBRUARY 5, 2016

Tallahassee Legislative Report  
Week Four Session  
Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.  
General Counsel and Lobbyist

As we approach the halfway point of the 2016 Legislative Session and the impending end of committee meetings, it is becoming increasingly clear which issues are likely to remain viable in the Session's final weeks.

For instance, it now appears likely that Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants will be allowed to prescribe controlled substances, albeit with restrictions and without independent practice. Prohibitions on balance billing emergency room patients will remain a hot issue, although the parties have been feverishly attempting to hammer out a compromise over the past week. Finally, it is apparent that the House of Representatives once again will pass legislation eliminating Certificate of Need Programs, while the Senate ponders less drastic legislation on this subject.

Also on our advocacy agenda this week was a two-day Board of Medicine meeting at which we defended criticisms of the Office Surgery Rule. After spirited debate, the Surgical Care Committee conceded that enforcement of the existing rule may need to be strengthened, but that the Rule itself was appropriately drafted to ensure that physicians only performed those procedures for which they are qualified.

Special Thanks to ACP FL Governor John G. Langdon, MD, FACP, as well as resident physicians Farah Al-Saffar, MD, J. Colt Cowdell, MD, and Julio Perez-Downes, MD, for joining us this week to provide testimony and support Internal Medicine in the Capitol.

As you can tell, it was an eventful week, but we look forward to even bigger and better things next week!

*Residents share their experience:*

*Truly unique opportunity to witness the legislative process in action while simultaneously representing the Florida Chapter ACP in regards to legislation actively discussed at both the House and Senate level.*

*Thanks for the educational experience. J. Colt Cowdell, MD*

*I believe we do make a difference in speaking with Senators and Representatives in order to address the most pressing issues regarding healthcare and medicine today. It is our duty as citizens and as physicians to participate in the political process, and by doing so we ensure that both our patients and our profession are not undermined by potential laws that could restrict access to healthcare and our ability to practice medicine freely. Julio Perez-Downes, MD*

## MEMBERS IN ACTION

### House of Representatives



Farah Al-Saffar, MD,

John Langdon, MD, FACP, ACP FL Governor

Julio Perez-Downes, MD

### Senate Chambers



Julio Perez-Downes, MD, Farah Al-Saffar, MD,

John Langdon, MD, FACP, J. Colt Cowdell, MD

## MEMBERS IN ACTION

### Senator Aaron Bean



J. Colt Cowdell, MD, Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.  
Farah Al-Saffar, MD, Senator Aaron Bean,  
John Langdon, MD, FACP, Julio Perez-Downes, MD

### Representative Reggie Fullwood



J. Colt Cowdell, MD, Representative Reggie Fullwood,  
John Langdon, MD, FACP  
Farah Al-Saffar, MD, Julio Perez-Downes, MD