



ACP
American College of Physicians
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**Florida Services
Chapter**



FL Advocate Newsletter

John G. Langdon, MD FACP, President/Governor ❖ Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, Governor

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Christopher L. Nuland, Esquire—General Counsel

Legislators and lobbyists made the week of February 20th—24th most eventful and challenging “Committee Week” in recent years.

Officially, the House and Senate Committees were busy. On Tuesday, the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee advanced bills to eliminate most retroactive denials (SB 102) and to make HMOs liable for medical malpractice when they make medical decisions (SB262). At the exact same time, the Senate Health Policy Committee passed bills to enable Direct Primary Care (SB 240), prohibit mid-year formulary changes for stable patients (SB 182) and allow the use of a single opiate in Level I Office Surgeries if reversal agents are on hand (SB 7012).

Not to be outdone, the House committees tackled many of these same issues the next day. The House Health Innovation Committee passed HB 95 (regarding the mid-year formulary changes) and moved the Office Surgery legislation to the full Health Services Committee. The Health Quality Committee also passed legislation that would allow ARNPs to become directors of health care clinics.

Despite all of this public action, Scope of Practice legislation took center stage late in the week, as bills were filed to allow optometrists to perform surgery (SB 1168) and allow pharmacists to diagnose conditions and initiate treatment (SB 1180). We will be fighting these Scope of Practice expansions, as well as the previously filed ARNP-Independent Practice Bill.

Special thanks goes to the ACP legislative delegation led by Legislative Chairman Bo Tucker, MD, FACP. The delegation also included resident physicians Julio-Perez Downes, DO, Leigh Cagino, MD, Paul Stevenson, MD, and Samantha Leigh Welniak, MD. Not only did the team attend five different committees, but it set a new record by meeting with 14 different legislative offices during their two days in Tallahassee. Thank you for your efforts!

"Participating in the advocacy movement of the Florida Chapter ACP allows us as residents to take part in the political process that directly affects our patients and the practice of medicine. I encourage every resident within the state of Florida to make their voice heard to ensure that our profession is protected and that our patients best interests are maintained."

~ Julio Perez-Downes, DO; Chair, FL Chapter ACP Council of Resident/Fellow Members





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Julio Perez-Downes DO, Paul Stevenson MD, Samantha Welniak MD,
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