



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



### Happy St. Patrick's Day!

If you have been following along over the last few weeks, you know that I have been using military analogies, saying that battle lines had formed. This week, they engaged.

The fight of the week was the Optometrists' effort in the Health Quality Committee to be allowed to perform surgeries. Medicine was united in opposition, and we spoke at length on the difference between medical residency training and the "course" that optometrists would have to take. Despite our efforts, the Optometrists won this vote by a 8-7 count when one opponent was called out of the room and his proxy was disallowed. While it would have been nice to put that issue aside for the rest of the Session, the fierceness of the debate and closeness of the vote give me great hope that we can defeat these efforts in the Senate.



Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, Senator Gary Farmer, Leonalba Martinez, MD

In other notable news, that same Health Quality Committee overwhelmingly approved a measure that would prohibit insurance companies and hospitals from requiring that panel physicians maintain MOC certification. Even if this legislation does not ultimately pass, a clear message has been sent to ABMS, which was in attendance and opposes the measure, that it must become more responsive to its physicians.

Thursday was less combative, as the House Health and Human Services Committee moved Direct Primary Care one step closer to passage (the Senate version has a vote next week), voted to ratify pending Board of Medicine rules for which we have fought for over two years, and pushed for the establishment of Recovery Care Centers.

All in all, it was a productive, if rough week, and both the House and Senate rewarded themselves by allowing an extra long weekend, but we all will be back at it on Monday when new battles will surely be fought.

FL ACP Governor Jason M. Goldman, MD, FACP testified in several key committees. Special thanks to both Dr. Goldman and resident Leonalba Martinez, MD who visited with multiple legislators while participating in the Chapter's Tallahassee health policy program this week. Your presence meant a lot to the legislators, who need to hear from practicing physicians.