



Florida Services
Chapter

FL Advocate Newsletter



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MAY 8, 2017— End of Session Legislative Wrap-up

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May 8, 2017
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In a year in which legislators failed to pass legislation even on their priority issues, such as Direct Primary Care, Worker's Compensation, Marijuana Regulation, the Florida Chapter was able to boast some notable achievements.

Defensively, we worked very hard to successfully prevent the passage of several anti-physician pieces of legislation. ARNPs and PAs did not receive the right to practice independently; Pharmacists did not receive the right to diagnose and prescribe; Optometrists did not receive the right to perform surgery; and we were able to prevent new, onerous CME requirements.

And there were several pieces of notable legislation that did pass. On the Session's final day the Legislature passed a bill would both increase access to office procedures by allowing the use of a single opiate in Level I offices while simultaneously improving safety by requiring reversal agents for when opiates are used.

Similarly, in the fight against opioid abuse the Legislature passed bills both funding the Prescription Data Monitoring Program and requiring more timely reporting of the dispensing of such medications. Patients will benefit from a "Medical Synchronization" bill that will allow for the synchronization of prescriptions so that patients can avoid repeated trips to the pharmacy.

All in all, it was a banner year. Thank you to all those who came to Tallahassee or contacted their legislators as part of our legislative program. Your contributions are essential to our success, and as we look forward to your continued involvement in 2018.

The 2018 legislative session will begin early in January 2018 with committee meetings beginning this fall.

As always, it is a pleasure and honor to serve.

