



Florida Chapter Advocate E-News

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



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—DECEMBER 3, 2015

Committee Week Six of Pre-Session

Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.
General Counsel

The Legislature just completed its sixth and final week of pre-Session Committee hearings, tackling several thorny issues and setting the stage for what likely will be an eventful Legislative Session.

On Tuesday the Senate Health Policy Committee passed a Medical Tourism bill (SB 178) that will internationally promote the expertise of Florida health care and should be a boon to all Florida physicians. During the same hearing, the Committee also passed legislation that would require insurance coverage for opioid antagonists to the same extent as the opioids themselves.

Later that afternoon came the major fireworks, as the House Health Quality Committee considered a bill that, as written, would allow pharmacists the right to practice medicine. After an hour of contentious debate, the bill was tabled, and any resulting bill will almost certainly not include an independent practice provision.

Wednesday saw the postponement of the controversial ER Price Fixing bill that would force even non-contracted physicians to accept the insurance payment as payment in full for ER services. Unfortunately, we do expect this bill to re-emerge during the first week of Session.

By Thursday the venue had shifted from Tallahassee to Jacksonville, where the Board of Medicine is meeting to discuss, among other things, its legislative agenda and office surgery. As always, we are there working for our members, and we will let you know of any exciting developments.

Special Thanks to this week's Tallahassee delegation, led by Joshua D. Lenchus, DO FACP, along with residents Lila Chertman, MD and Armen Henderson, MD. The team participated in a press conference, testified at hearings against pharmacist independent practice, and met with legislators in support of legislative agenda.

As the final week of pre-Session Committee meetings conclude we look forward to returning in the New Year. Should you have any questions regarding legislation please feel free to contact Mr. Nuland at nuland-law@aol.com.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays!

MEMBERS IN ACTION

MIAMI TEAM



Joshua D. Lenchus, DO RPh FACP

Lila S. Chertman, MD

Armen Henderson, MD

Senator Aaron Bean



Armen Henderson, MD

Lila S. Chertman, MD

Senator Aaron Bean

Joshua D. Lenchus, DO RPh FACP

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Representative Julio Gonzalez



Armen Henderson, MD
Lila S. Chertman, MD
Representative Julio Gonzalez
Joshua D. Lenchus, DO RPh FACP
Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.

Armen Henderson, MD—2016 ACP Health Policy Intern



**Congratulations to Armen Henderson, MD who was chosen
for the 2016 ACP Health Policy Internship Program**

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Lila S. Chertman, MD—Health Policy Fellow



Lila Shoshana Chertman, MD; FL ACP CoRF Co-Chair,
PGY-3 Mt. Sinai Medical Ctr. Miami Beach
with Senator Bill Cassidy, MD

This past July I had one of the most unique educational experiences of my medical career; I was the health policy fellow for Senator Dr. Bill Cassidy. I first met Senator Cassidy when a friend of mine, Mr. Eytan Laor, invited me to a campaign event in Miami at the Biltmore Hotel. Dr. Cassidy intrigued me; he was a practicing gastroenterologist but also meaningfully contributed to our political process. He graciously offered me a rotation with him in D.C. and after discussing the details with my residency program leadership they sent me on this once in a lifetime adventure that added unparalleled nuance to my medical training. So this July I packed my bags, happily traded my pager for a Senate Staff badge, and delved into the complex arena of health policy through meetings with stakeholders including the CEO's of Epic and AthenaHealth, Dr. DeSalvo (Assistant Secretary for HHS and National Coordinator for HIT), and countless others. After attending Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee hearings, meeting with members of Congress, crafting memos for Dr. Cassidy, and analyzing the House's 21st Century Cures Bill, I drafted a policy proposal on the burden of Meaningful Use and Electronic Health Records, and their lack of interoperability. I shared the highlights of what I learned about time lost to patient care, physician dissatisfaction, degradation of the quality of clinical documentation, and information blocking at Mount Sinai's Medicine Grand Rounds to remind physicians that although health policy can feel like a foreign language, there is a tremendous potential for those of us on the front lines to get involved and potentially change what is wrong with medicine. I saw first-hand that most of the decision makers in Congress have no idea that their endless regulations and documentation requirements have damaged the once sacred patient-physician relationship. Yet, I also saw that they were eager to hear from physicians who had made it a priority to step forward and express their thoughts. One of the individuals I met that fateful day back at the Biltmore was Dr. Joshua Lenchus who encouraged me to become active in ACP, and since then I've been able to engage in health policy from the other side, lobbying on behalf of physicians. I'm thankful to be part of ACP because it empowers us to speak up on behalf of our beautiful profession and the patients who remind us that we do what we do every day, no matter how challenging or frustrating it is, to make a difference in a human being's life.