



Florida Services  
Chapter



## FL Advocate Newsletter

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### FINAL SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT — MARCH 23, 2020

Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, President/Governor

#### THE YEAR OF SCOPE

This past legislative session has been a roller coaster inside a whirlwind, assaulted by a hurricane. In all my years of advocacy, I have never seen such a perfect storm of events that lead to the passage of expansion of scope for pharmacists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The details of how this transpired are complicated, but it was a hard fought battle in which your legislative team and leadership, in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association, opposed these bills every step of the way and with every tool and resource available.

As we all know in medicine, you can do everything right and still have a bad outcome. Unfortunately for the citizens of Florida, the legislature has allowed less trained individuals to perform independently without physician oversight. We must be diligent in our own efforts and make sure that we do everything we can to minimize the damage that could potentially be caused by the unsupervised practice of any individual acting outside their training and abilities. All is not lost, as advocacy is a process that cycles year after year.

We will continue to try to affect change in the rule making process and will be back next year to advocate for our patients and the practice of medicine. The leadership in the legislature changes and different presiding offices will have different goals that we must be ever vigilant of and able to mitigate. We must always be at the table or we will be on the menu. It is imperative that we start now in developing and maintaining relationships with current and future leaders in the legislature so they will know how their decisions affect the patients and the practice of medicine.

Finally, the ultimate expression of our democracy occurs in the voting booth and the best way to prevent bad legislation is to not have those legislators in office by voting for candidates more supportive of your beliefs.

We thank all of you for your hard work and dedication, especially in these tough and trying times. We will get through the pandemic and will be stronger for it. Please stay safe.