



Florida Services
Chapter



FL Advocate Newsletter

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CALL TO ARMS — FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, President/Governor



I wanted to take a moment this week to focus on the importance of advocacy and the need for physicians to be leaders in all aspects of life, from the office to society. As doctors, we are respected for our skills, abilities and knowledge, coupled with our ethics and integrity. Even though it seems that the internet search has taken over as a source for information, the general public still values the thoughts and opinions of doctors. What we say and do matters and that has never been more critical than it is today in the current Florida Legislature and the healthcare debate occurring throughout the country.

The American College of Physicians has already released its vision on creating a better health care system in the United States, you can Register Today for webinar on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 3:00 pm – 4:00 p.m. (EST) for the ACPs' Vision for U.S. Health Care System.

<https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2759528/envisioning-better-u-s-health-care-system-all-call-action>

We have a strong voice to accomplish our shared goals of better patient care and improvements of the art and practice of medicine. That voice is best heard when spoken as one with a clear and concise sense of vision and purpose. A single branch

may break when by itself but hold many branches together and it is unbreakable. The need for membership and growth has never been more important than it is now. The practice of medicine is under an all-out assault by the Florida Legislature and the current Speaker of the House, Jose Oliva.

If you have not been following the speeches and presentations by the House Speaker, you have missed him attacking the practice of medicine and doctors. He has placed a Nurse Practitioner as Doctor of the Day for the legislative session. He believes that the unregulated and minimal hours of schooling by a Nurse Practitioner is equivalent to the countless years of training and residency and experience that we have as doctors. He believes in complete independent practice of non-physicians and wants to replace doctors with mid-level providers. While they are important members of the medical team, that team must be physician led. We cannot allow our profession to be devalued or minimized. We cannot allow our patients to be misled and endangered. We have a responsibility to stand up for what is right and true and prevent this travesty from occurring. This is a call to arms for all doctors to be the advocates that our patients and profession demands.

The advocacy process is complex and requires many different aspects to accomplish. One of the more important aspects is membership in your specialty society and state medical association as well as involvement in the Political Action Committees that are necessary for the process to work. This allows us to work with a unified voice and unified purpose. The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians and the Florida Medical Association have had a longstanding and collegial working relationship that has allowed us to accomplish many of our shared goals. We cannot do this alone and we must all work together. The time to prevent the current problem was years ago when we should have all been members of the organizations and involved in the process. It is not too late to secure our future and we must act now. I have often equated the process to a preventative colonoscopy in that you can remove the precancerous polyp at age 50 but if you wait the ten years and do nothing, you will have cancer in your 60s. While we cannot go back in time, we can contribute now and make sure that medicine will have a future.

If you are reading this and not a member of the ACP Florida Chapter and not a member of the Florida Medical Association, you should join today. I cannot stress enough the importance of dual membership in both the ACP and FMA.

<https://www.acponline.org/membership>

https://www.flmedical.org/florida/Florida_Public/System/Login.aspx?LoginRedirect=true&returnurl=%2FFlorida%2FFlorida_Public%2FShop%2FDues_Invoice.aspx%3Fmc%3DACP

If you are not a member of the FMA Political Action Committee, consider joining if you believe that our profession is worth saving and that patients deserve to be taken care of by doctors who are the most educated and trained to handle their complex medical problems, then take action now. If not “US” then who and if not now, then when.

I will continue to fight on your behalf but we are so much more effective when we are all involved. As Ben Franklin said, “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.”

Enroll now in the ACP Advocates in Internal Medicine Network to join your colleagues nationally!

ADVOCATES FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK

Join more than 15,000 colleagues in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn) in advocating for the interests of internal medicine in Washington, D.C. The AIMn program is for ACP members interested in participating in federal advocacy. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine.

Enroll now: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/app/register?0&m=13815>

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College emails or faxes legislative alerts to AIMn members through our Legislative Action Center (LAC). Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress, and ACP staff is always available to provide support and answer legislative questions.

Once enrolled as an Advocate you can use the College's LAC to respond easily to current ACP legislative alerts, identify your federal legislators, monitor important legislation, and e-mail or call your members of Congress.

Legislative Action Center: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/home?0>