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Chapter



FL Advocate Newsletter

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SECOND WEEK OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT—JANUARY 24, 2020

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As the second week of the 2020 Legislative Session winds down, the political process is both complex and intricate. It is clear where the various positions of each chamber and each party lie. It is more important now than ever to be involved in advocating for our profession. Our lobbyists and staff are diligently involved to guide us through this session, but it is imperative that we continue our own involvement. While we will continue to have legislative updates and information throughout the session, this should be a reminder that advocacy is an ongoing process that requires work both before and after session. Our legislative team will work throughout the session, but let us continue to forge our relationships after session to be able to advocate for future years. As Internist, we are very well aware of the importance of prevention.

On Scope of Practice issues, the House appears to be poised to pass Independent Practice for APRNs and PAs, as HB 607 passed Health Appropriations easily and now moves on to its last stop, the Health and Human Services Committee. Likewise, the Pharmacist Flu/Strep Test and Treat bill (HB 389) and Consultant Pharmacist Bill (HB 599) have all moved to the Health and Human Services Committee, which will meet next week. On a better note, the Health Appropriations Committee did pass HB 500, which would prevent the misappropriation of physician titles (such as “surgeon” or “internist”) by other professions. Meanwhile, the Senate thus far is refusing to consider such proposals, which likely will set the stage for late-session negotiations.

Pharmaceutical and PBM misconduct received its first hearing, with the Health Reform Committee passing its first PBM bill that would require greater transparency from such organizations, but would not include patient protections for which we are lobbying. The Senate will address the issue for the first time next week.

Please think of the yearlong advocacy as a preventative medicine to prevent onerous legislation from occurring during session. Thank you for your service and your dedication to the patients and the profession we all cherish.