



Florida Services  
Chapter

**FL Advocate Newsletter**



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## WEEK SEVEN OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT — FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, President/Governor

### **OUR BACKS AGAINST THE WALL**

With only fourteen days left in the Legislative Session, 2020 is likely to be remembered as the year that the Florida Legislature declared war on Medicine. Just this week, the House of Representatives moved measures to the Floor that would grant independent practice to APRNs and PAs (actually, they passed it twice, in HB 607 and HB 7053) and allow pharmacists to test and treat for a variety of chronic health conditions (HB 389 and HB 599). These moves were in addition to passing legislation, which now moves to the Senate, that would mandate electronic prescribing of all prescriptions (even if the physician does not have an electronic medical record system), require Attorney General approval of most physician mergers, and shorten the time frames in which physicians must produce medical records.

For years, the Senate has been the firewall against such Anti-Physician legislation, but that wall has crumbled in recent weeks. Just this week, the Senate moved to the Floor legislation that would allow pharmacists to test and treat for the flu (SB 714), and an Independent Practice Bill (SB 1676) and expanded Pharmacist Scope (SB 1094) are only a single committee stop away from a full floor vote. While the current Senate versions of each of these bills is far superior than the House counterparts, the fact that each is likely to pass raises the likelihood that a deal will be worked out in all such issues, with the House taking the lead on the discussions.

The actions of the House are now a foregone conclusion, but we still have some support in the Senate. If you care about these issues, NOW is the time to contact your Senator by going to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) and ask them to vote NO on these Scope Expansion Bills.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the profession and the patients we serve.