

FLACP

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

**Legislative Update
January 16, 2014**

Florida Chapter ACP Tallahassee Update
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Today sees the conclusion of two weeks of Committee weeks in anticipation of the official start of the 2014 Legislative session. As in the past few weeks, legislators centered on Scope of Practice and Telemedicine as the key issues.

In the House, the Select Committee on Healthcare Workforce Innovation met twice, hearing primarily from those who advocate for an increase in the ARNP's scope of practice. At this point it is apparent that the Committee will propose some sort of expansion when its bill is released, although a date for that release has yet to be announced.

With regard to Telemedicine, the Senate Health Policy Committee again addressed the issue at this week's hearing, with Chairman Aaron Bean announcing that a bill was forthcoming. Meanwhile, the Florida Board of Medicine on Wednesday officially released its proposed telemedicine rule, which incorporates the Chapter's position that telemedicine should not alter the prevailing standard of care but is a viable means of providing medical care, especially in emergency situations.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to express our condolences to the family of Wendy Hansen, a fellow Health Care lobbyist and lawyer and former House staffer. Many of you probably know her husband, Craig, a former FMA staffer and current lobbyist, and our prayers go out to him and their children at this sad time.