

FLACP

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Legislative Update
March 14, 2014

Legislative Session Update Week Two
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With both Telemedicine and Scope of Practice issues taking the week off, focus this week shifted to our courts and our Nation's Capitol, where Speaker Boehner agreed to pull the SGR Elimination Bill, HR 4015, from its committees of reference and allow a floor vote. While the actual vote date has yet to be set, a "Call for Action" will be forthcoming prior to March 31 in order to avoid a catastrophic cut in physician fees. Watch for alert in order to contact Members of Congress to urge their support in passing this much-needed legislation.

Breaking News: In the courts, the Florida Supreme Court ruled the 2003 caps on non-economic damages to be unconstitutional. This is admittedly a blow and likely will result in a premium increase 6%. We are already busy looking for potential legislative solutions.

Back in at the Legislature, the second week of session was devoted to other issues. Senator Eleanor Sobel's Health Care Clinic Act (SB 746), which would require all non-physician owned health clinics to be inspected (there currently is an exemption for cash-only clinics) passed unanimously out the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday. That same Committee also passed SB 488, which requires licensed facilities to alert patients as to the possibility of out-of-network physician charges.

Next week is sure to be a busy one in Tallahassee, as virtually all bills have now been filed and referenced, and Telemedicine and Scope bills return to center stage. The Florida Chapter will have a delegation in the trenches so we look forward to providing a full report next Friday. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Nuland, Chapter General Counsel at nulandlaw@aol.com.