

FLACP

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

**Legislative Update
March 21, 2014**

March 21, 2014 Tallahassee Session Report - Week Three
Christopher L. Nuland, Esq. General Counsel

After a couple of relatively slow weeks this past five days have been the busiest of the 2014 Florida Legislative Session, with the promise of an even busier week to come.

The week began on Monday with a three hour hearing on the pending Medical Malpractice Crisis created by the Supreme Court's invalidation of caps on non-economic damages. We spoke at the hearing, emphasizing that any solution must minimize the administrative and emotional burdens on physicians while eliminating the need for costly defensive medicine.

Bills requiring physicians to offer the Hepatitis C test to virtually all baby Boomers passed committees in both the House and Senate. While we publicly supported the test itself, we continue to oppose the physician mandate and are working hard with the sponsors to find common ground. Also passing were bills to promote the early treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

On the Scope of Practice front, the House Workforce Innovation Subcommittee passed a bill that would raise the number of physician assistants that could be supervised by a single physician from four to eight.

All of that activity pales in relation to the schedule for next week. On Monday afternoon the House Health Appropriations Subcommittee will consider bills on Graduate Medical Education, Telemedicine, and Trauma, after which the Senate Criminal Justice Committee will consider the Health Care Clinic Act.

Tuesday will start at 8:30 a.m. with consideration of the FMA's Insurance Reform package by the House Insurance and banking Committee, and finally this year's "Super Bowl" of a Senate Health Policy Committee, where bills on Trauma, ARNP Prescribing, Tanning, and the Senate version of the FMA Insurance Package all will be considered.

Special thanks to this week's ACP delegation. Led by Legislative Vice-Chairman Jason Goldman, MD FACP, residents included Alyssa Burkhart, MD, Emilio Garcia, MD, and Stacy Rubin, MD. **Follow our residents on the Chapter's face book page for photos taken with legislators at the Capitol.*