With only one week left in the 2014 Legislative Session, battle lines have formed in both the House and Senate on the major health-related issues.

The House of Representatives yesterday amended its single Health Care Bill (HB 7013) to include ARNP Independent Practice, Telemedicine (where out of state physicians are subject to revocable registration, but not required to obtain a Florida license), easing of Physician Assistant supervision requirements, and Trauma legislation.

The Senate, on the other hand, has not allowed any of those issues (other than Trauma) to advance to the Floor, but will consider Medicine's Managed Care reform (SB 1354) on Monday, as well as our Health Care Clinic Act, which passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday. As a result, the stage is being set for an ultimate showdown in which all major healthcare legislation may be imperiled if negotiators do not reach a compromise. This compromise is unlikely to involve the entire chambers, as neither chamber is likely to pass the other's bill; rather, these negotiations likely will include the respective health committee chairmen (Senator Aaron Bean and Representative Richard Corcoran) and a few other leaders.

We will keep you updated in what surely will be a very busy final week.