

FLACP

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Legislative Update
May 5, 2014

2014 Tallahassee Legislative Session Final Report
Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.
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When Senate leaders refused to consider a final House health care counter offer at 8:30 on the 60th day of Session, chances for meaningful health care legislation evaporated. The House had gambled that the Senate would not walk away from a bill that included the FMA's fine Managed Care legislation, a controversial trauma system reform, and our Health Care Clinic Act, but the Senate effectively called the House's bluff by refusing to even consider the last-minute House offer, leaving the legislation to die when the Legislature adjourned "sine die" (without date).

Even the last minute implosion, however, could not detract from what was otherwise a remarkable Legislative Session. Against all odds, Medicine succeeded in preventing any expansion of practice by ARNPs and Physician Assistants. Moreover, while we were successful in passing a good Telemedicine rule at the Board of Medicine, we succeeded in repelling legislative attempts to allow out-of state- physicians not licensed in Florida from practicing Telemedicine. Because of Medicine's efforts, physicians will not be required to inquire of the Prescription Monitoring Database for each new patient who needs any type of controlled substance.

There were also some notable bills passed. Legislation allowing for schools and other institutions to stock and administer emergency allergy treatment is on its way to the Governor, as is legislation to raise the age at which children must still utilize booster seats. This latter legislation has taken over a decade to pass.

All of this would not have been possible without an unprecedented degree to cooperation and teamwork between the FMA and the Specialty Societies, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Tm Stapleton and his fine legislative team, as well as each and every one of the other Specialty Society lobbyists who were instrumental in the successful Session. Of course, ACP's program simply would not be possible without the work of Dawn Moerings and entire Chapter staff.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every physician who took the time out of their practice to contact even a single legislator. Our victories this year were by narrow margins, and each and every contact was vital in our legislative efforts. As always, it is a pleasure and an honor to serve. Chris