



Florida Chapter Advocate E-News



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Michelle L. Rossi, MD FACP, President/Governor ❖ John G. Langdon, MD FACP, Governor

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—FEBRUARY 19, 2016



Tallahassee Legislative Report
Week Six Session
Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.
General Counsel and Lobbyist

While progress on many of the most important issues has been slow this Session, Week 6 saw an avalanche of legislative activity, including major action on several of our priority pieces of legislation.

For instance, The House Needle Exchange Bill escaped legislative purgatory and cleared it last committee of reference; it is now on the House calendar, while its Senate companion also is on the calendar. The same is now true for ARNP and PA prescribing bills, although neither bill includes independent practice language.

Most exciting for the Florida Chapter, however, was the progress of the Direct Primary Care Bill. After two weeks of frantic negotiations and lobbying, the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee unanimously passed the bill, which is now headed to the full Senate Floor. Its House companion also has cleared all of its referenced committees and awaits action by the full House.

Of interest to many of our members was the Senate Health Policy confirmation hearing of Surgeon General John Armstrong, M.D., FACS. After a thorough examination, Dr. Armstrong received a favorable vote from the committee, although his nomination must still be acted upon by Ethics and Elections Committee and by the full Senate.

All is set up for an exciting final three weeks, and we look forward to sharing even better news in the days to come.