



# Florida Chapter Advocate E-News



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### Legislative Update March 13, 2015

Second Week of Session March 9-13, 2015  
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The momentum from the opening week did not abate in Week 2, as legislators addressed a series of our issues in a series of often contentious debates.

In the most publicized action, the Senate Health Policy Committee passed SPB 7044, which would effectively expand Medicaid access to 138% of poverty and draw down billion of dollars in federal funds. While the House will be reluctant to accept any such plan, the Senate has made its position clear, and this issue likely will be one debated in the final hours of the Session.

Telemedicine continues to be a hot topic, with bills requiring Florida licensure and a maintenance of the existing standard of care having passed the Senate Health Policy (SB 478) and House Health Quality Committee (HB 545). Likewise, bills to facilitate the administration of pneumonia vaccines to nursing home residents have passed both House and senate committees.

As eventful as this week, however, next week is likely to be even more contentious. On Tuesday the Senate Health Policy Committee will debate a bill to allow ARNPs to prescribe controlled substances, and on Wednesday the House Insurance and Banking Committee likely will hear a bill that would prevent ER physicians from balance billing patients beyond what is paid by insurance.

Should you have any questions regarding specific legislation feel free to contact me at [nulandlaw@aol.com](mailto:nulandlaw@aol.com).

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