



Legislative Update - Week 1

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This session is shaping up to be a tough one for the health care industry as a whole. The Florida House has put forward several initiatives which are dangerous for patients. It is more crucial than ever for FOMA members to engage in the legislative process and contact their local legislators. With big issues like scope of practice expansion, drug pricing, abortion, and everything in between, this will not be a quiet year in the Florida Legislature.

- **Paul Seltzer, DO, Legislative Chairman**



“As we go into this session let us continue to show our constituents that we can exchange and debate ideas while maintaining civility and decorum. That we can problem solve together. That we can put aside personalities and politics for good policy. And, that we are not a microcosm of Washington, D.C., but instead will continue to be an example for Washington, D.C.”

- *Senate President Bill Galvano, Opening Remarks*

2020 Legislative Session Begins

This week the Legislature officially convened for the 2020 Legislative Session. Every year, at the beginning of each Session, the House and Senate convene separately and then in a Joint Session to hear the Governor's State of the State address. This year, each chamber struck a different tone in their opening remarks as Senate President Bill Galvano and House Speaker Jose Oliva addressed their respective members.

Speaker Oliva's remarks were particularly critical of the health care sector, calling "hospitals, medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies" the "Great Robber Barons of our time." He further outlined his priorities on expanding scope of practice, stating "Florida's archaic and backwards approach to scope of practice has contributed [to] the problem. Florida is one of a handful of states that still prevent health care professionals from practicing what they are educated, trained and certified to do."

Senate President Galvano's remarks struck a more measured tone, offering an optimistic view of the Senate's future, stating "This Senate seated before me will be forever unique in history. We are the first Senate of a new decade. We have the opportunity to set the bar for the 2020's. For my part, I will continue to do everything I can to facilitate the opportunity for each of you to carry the dreams, goals, and objectives of your constituencies to this process with fairness, respect, and candor."

In Joint Session, Governor Ron DeSantis, addressing the Legislature, outlined his priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session. These priorities include pay raises for teachers, increased spending for water quality, and E-Verify. The Governor noted that President Trump seems to be moving forward with the regulatory framework for the importation of Canadian prescription drugs. Governor DeSantis also discussed the new "patient savings plan" for state workers, stating that the plan "has already realized millions of dollars of savings." He indicated that he would like to see such a plan available statewide for private sector workers as well.

Legislative Links

Takeaways from Tallahassee

The FOMA Legislative Team will keep you updated as the Legislative Session progresses. Typically, the respective priorities of the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President become bargaining chips as the session shakes out. With so much emphasis on scope expansion from Speaker Oliva, your Legislative Team will continue to advocate for patient protections to ensure that patients receive quality health care.



Surgeon General Confirmation Moves Forward

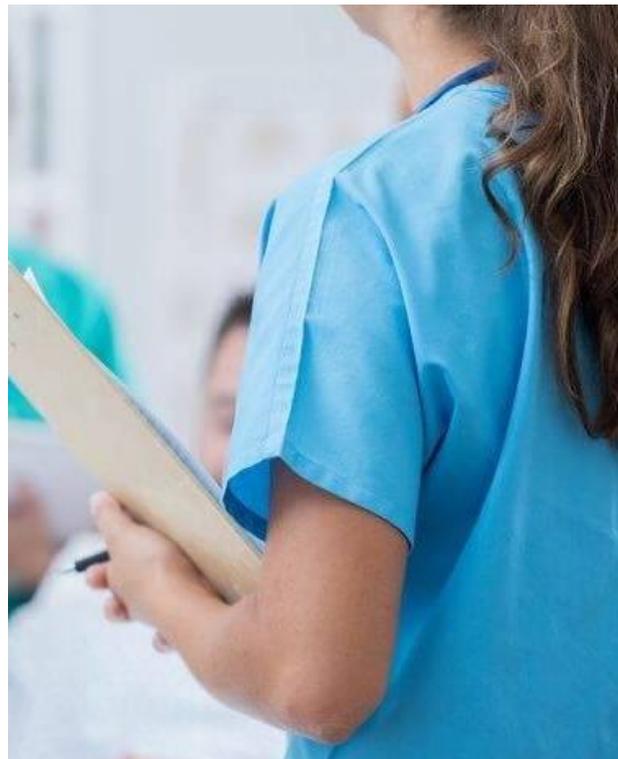
Surgeon General Scott Rivkees, MD,



went before the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. In an 8-2 vote, the committee voted to move the confirmation forward. Dr. Rivkees will now have to go before the Senate Rules Committee. The FOMA Legislative Team stood in support of the confirmation.

Independent Practice Passes Second Committee

HB 607, by Representative Cary Pigman passed out of the House Health Care Appropriations committee on Wednesday. It will now head to its final committee, House Health and Human Services. This bill, as written, would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants to practice independently. The FOMA opposes this bill and will continue to keep our members updated on this issue. It is a top priority of Speaker Oliva, and has passed the House several years in a row. It is incumbent upon the legislative committee to work with the Senate diligently to prevent this **dangerous measure** from becoming law.



ACGME Bill Passes Second Committee

The FOMA Legislative Team is pleased to report that HB 221, by Representative Spencer Roach, has passed out of its second House committee. On Wednesday, the House Health Care Appropriations Committee voted unanimously to move the bill forward. The next, and final stop before the House floor, is the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Ray Rodrigues. This bill is crucial for Florida's osteopathic medical students



to be able to take advantage of the merger between the AOA and ACGME's accreditation bodies. This is a top priority of the FOMA and our team is diligently working to get it to the finish line.

For more information, and a complete list of all the bills we are tracking, click the button below to visit our bill tracking website.

[Bill Tracking](#)

In the News

[Speaker Oliva Names APRN 'Doctor of the Day'](#)

[Surprise Medical Bills go Viral](#)

[Florida House Moves Specialty Hospitals Forward](#)

[Genetic Information Bill Passes Health Committee](#)

[Healthcare Data Battle Heats Up](#)

With the 2020 Legislative Session heating up, and issues such as scope of practice coming to the forefront, it is more important than ever to look ahead to the 2020 election cycle. The FOMA needs your help to continue supporting candidates that put patients first. Every dollar to our Political Action Committee goes towards supporting our mission of protecting Florida's patients. To donate, click the button below.

[FOMA PAC](#)

