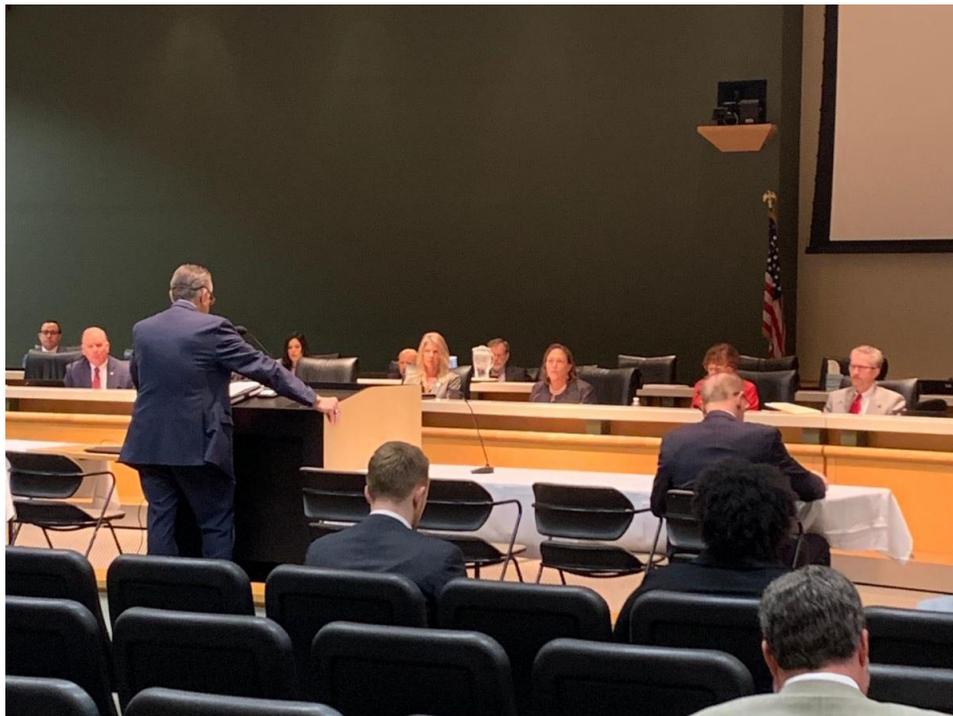




Legislative Update - Week 4

Paul Seltzer, DO, Legislative Chairman
Stephen R. Winn, Executive Director
Jason D. Winn, Esq., General Counsel
Jared Willis, Director of Government Affairs

*The FOMA legislative team is vigilantly advocating for osteopathic physicians and their patients at the Capitol, but we need your involvement now more than ever. Several dangerous measures, priorities of House leadership, are continuing to move forward. These proposals include **independent practice for PAs and APRNs**, **prescriptive authority for psychologists**, and **expansion of scope for pharmacists**. Patients need qualified health care professionals to ensure that they get the best health care. Please let your local legislators know how important this issue is to you.*
- Paul D. Seltzer, DO, FOMA Legislative Chairman



This week, the Appropriations Committees from the House and Senate presented the Proposed Committee Bills which will be the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Each subcommittee has a specific category of the budget that they are tasked with putting

together. The chairmen of each committee presented their portion of the budget, and answered questions on their respective silos. Both budgets include \$38,501,658 from General Revenue for Graduate Medical Education, the House includes an additional \$208M from various trust funds, while the Senate budget proposes almost \$242M.

The House and Senate are about \$1.4B apart, and will need to work out the details in conference negotiations.

With the budget process taking center stage, this week saw fewer substantive policy bills move through the committee process, though several key measures continued to move forward. As always, the FOMA legislative team was tirelessly advocating for you and your patients.

Legislative Links

Takeaways from Tallahassee

The legislature took a break from drug pricing issues this week, and focused mainly on the budget and larger "package" bills. The FOMA legislative team is pounding the pavement and covering every branch of Florida's government. In addition to covering legislative committee meetings, and meeting with Senator Harrell, Senator Montford, and Representative Roach, our team joined several physician groups to discuss mental health parity at a roundtable sponsored by Representative Emily Slosberg. Also this week, the FOMA participated in a legislative workgroup on HIV and viral hepatitis.

[Click here to see our legislative video update from last week.](#)



Department of Health Package passes Appropriations

In a marathon 5-hour Appropriations meeting on Wednesday, Senator Gayle



Harrell presented SB 230, which is the comprehensive DOH package for this session. Among other measures, this bill contains the FOMA's language which allows osteopathic medical students to take advantage of the national merger between the ACGME and AOA's accreditation programs. This language is also being run as a standalone bill, SB 218, which we are continuing to push forward.

"Ology" Bill Passes Final Senate Committee

Another bill by Senator Harrell, SB 500, also passed out of Appropriations on Wednesday. This bill prohibits health care practitioners who are not physicians from using titles traditionally assigned to physicians. This bill was introduced after the Board of Nursing ruled that a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist could use the title "Nurse Anesthesiologist". This bill is an important step in protecting Florida's patients, and we are continuing to work with the sponsor as it moves forward.



PIP Reform Passes House Banking and Insurance

On Tuesday, HB 771, by Representative Grall, passed out of House Banking and Insurance. This bill would repeal the "no-fault" PIP system in the State of Florida, replacing it with a non-mandatory "med pay", with most medical payments coming out of mandatory "bodily injury" coverage.

The FOMA is currently opposed



to this bill. Without making "med pay" mandatory, our physicians and their patients will not be protected in cases where emergency medical treatment is necessary.

Abortion Bill Passes Senate Floor

Senate Bill 404, by Senator Stargel cleared the Senate Floor on Wednesday, and will now head to the House for a vote. The bill would require parental consent before a minor could receive an abortion. The bill includes exemptions when the minor receives a judicial waiver, or in emergency situations. The FOMA will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates as it progresses.



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](#)

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](#)

