



ISSUES TO SUPPORT:

MEDICAID TO MEDICARE

Increase the reimbursement rate for Medicaid to that of Medicare.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Increase state funding for graduate medical education programs in order to preserve access to care in Florida.

MEDICAL HOME

Support legislation that would establish a pilot project on the patient-centered medical home concept in the Medicaid program.

CAT FUND

Extend the medical malpractice exemption from any assessments levied on premiums for property and casualty insurance by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

ER SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Support legislation that would provide sovereign immunity to physicians who provide mandated treatment to patients in emergency rooms.

EXPERT WITNESS CERTIFICATE

Support legislation that requires expert witnesses to become licensed in Florida and clarifies that giving expert testimony is the practice of medicine.

HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT CLOSURE

Give the Agency for Health Care Administration the power to investigate decisions by a hospital to close a particular department and to take action to ensure patients are not left without needed medical care.

PODIATRY

Support legislation that would conform current state statutes to the anatomical training and expertise of podiatrists, thereby limiting their treatments to the foot and ankle.

OFF-SITE EMERGENCY ROOMS

Support legislation that would impose a moratorium on the construction of any additional off-site emergency departments in the State of Florida.

TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH INSURANCE CPT REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULES

Support legislation that would require all health insurance companies licensed in Florida to give all physicians access, on the company's website, to the participating physician's current complete fee schedule.

PROHIBIT ARTIFICIAL PRICE CONTROLS OF NON-COVERED SERVICES

Support legislation that would prohibit Florida insurance companies from forcing contract provisions on health care providers for services not covered by the plan.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Support legislation that would allow qualified out-of-state physicians to obtain a certificate to practice as a medical examiner in Florida.

PREAUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL TESTING

Support legislation making it unlawful for an insurance company or other third party payer to interfere with a licensed MD/DO's valid order for a medical test or procedure.

DETERMINATION OF MEDICAL BENEFITS

Support legislation that would require managed care organizations to provide “real time” eligibility for their subscribers and reimburse physicians for any patient services rendered whereby subscriber eligibility has been confirmed prior to the delivery of care.

FLORIDA KIDCARE

Support the efforts of the Florida Pediatric Society to legislatively fix the Florida Kidcare Statute.

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

Support legislation that would require health insurers to cover an annual screening for prostate cancer for men over 40.

SB 1986

Support glitch legislation that would fix the unintended consequences of the licensing provisions contained in SB 1986, which passed during the 2009 session.

HEALTH FREEDOM JOINT RESOLUTION

Support the Joint Resolution seeking to submit a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters that would preserve the freedom of all residents of the state to provide for their own health care.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Support legislation that would require health insurance for each student in a state university in Florida.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

Support legislation that would require insurance companies to provide the same coverage for mental illness as they do for other health care problems.

USE OF THE TERM “PHYSICIAN”

Support legislation that would prohibit the use of the term “physician” by any person other than an M.D. or D.O.

FETAL ALCOHOL ABUSE

Support legislation that would provide for voluntary admission of expectant mothers for alcohol abuse treatment services. Support legislation requiring that warning signs about fetal risk from the ingestion of alcohol by pregnant woman be posted wherever alcoholic beverages are sold.

NICA

Support legislation that would expand NICA coverage to brachial plexus injuries as long as there is no increase in the nonparticipating physician assessment.

LIMITED PRACTICE LICENSE

Support legislation that would streamline the process for obtaining a limited practice license.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CME

Support the efforts of the Board of Medicine to legislatively clarify the domestic violence CME time requirements.

LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINERS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Support legislation that would fund and mandate that each public secondary school in Florida with an athletic program employ or contract with a licensed athletic trainer.

BOOSTER SEATS / CHILDREN

Support legislation that requires all children 4 to 7 years of age and 4’9” in height or less to be placed in a properly restrained booster seat when riding in an automobile.

COLON CANCER SCREENING

Support legislation that would require health insurers to cover colon cancer screening tests.

ISSUES TO OPPOSE:

BALANCED BILLING

Oppose the imposition of any new restrictions on the ability of a physician to bill patients directly for the costs of care not fully covered by their insurance policy.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE EXPANSIONS

Continue to oppose all scope of practice expansions including naturopaths, ARNPs, pharmacists, optometrists, psychologists, podiatrists, direct access to physical therapists, audiologists and speech language pathologists.

AUTONOMY IN MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Oppose any legislation that would infringe on physician practice autonomy and the doctor/patient relationship.

PROTECT ABILITY TO SELF INSURE

Oppose legislation that will take away a physician's ability to self insure or that will make it more difficult for a physician to meet the financial responsibility requirements for licensure.

WRONGFUL DEATH

Oppose any expansion of Florida's Wrongful Death Act.

VACCINATIONS

Oppose any vaccine legislation that would deviate from evidence-based recommendations and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

Oppose legislation that establishes protocols for the assessment, treatment, and destination selection and transportation of suspected cardiac patients to include a destination selection criterion for suspected STEMI patients.

FOREIGN PHYSICIAN LICENSURE

Oppose any legislation that allows a physician to practice in Florida without meeting the same requirements as all other applicants.

PHYSICIAN PROFILE ISSUES

Oppose any legislation that makes the laws relating to profiles more onerous.

HEARING INTERPRETERS

Oppose any legislation that increases the cost of hearing interpreters.

FABRE CHANGES

Oppose any legislation changing current law relating to the Fabre doctrine.

PHYSICIAN SUPERVISION ISSUES

Protect advances we have made relating to physician supervision of nurses and PAs.

ARBITRATION

Oppose any changes to the statutes/rules governing arbitration that would jeopardize the effectiveness of the FMA created physician-patient arbitration form.