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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

KNOW THE ISSUES

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Chris Lyon, Esquire
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FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Paul Seltzer, DO



As Legislative Chair, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the FOMA Legislative Committee, staff, and consultants for their unwavering dedication to our profession and commitment to ensuring that Florida patients have access to the highest quality of care. With a truncated calendar, our team had little respite between sessions as the legislature slated interim committee meetings for the last quarter of 2023 in preparation for the 2024 Legislative Session, which began January 9, 2024.

Early on, the team recognized that healthcare would be a major focus of the session and feverishly prepared for the challenges ahead. Working tirelessly, they engaged with legislators and our partners, advocating for the profession and the patients we serve, navigating a demanding legislative environment to achieve success.

The FOMA monitored 279 healthcare-related bills during the 2024 Legislative Session. Legislators filed bills covering a wide range of topics important to physicians and their patients, including healthcare workforce, physician reimbursement, prescription drug pricing, title protection, scope of practice, insurance, and medical malpractice. A total of 34 bills passed through the legislative process, with Governor DeSantis vetoing one. Of the 34 bills approved, 29 became effective on or before July 1, 2024.

On balance, the 2024 Legislative Session was a success. Together with our partners, the FOMA successfully pushed to expand opportunities for meaningful

policies and funding to address projected healthcare workforce shortages. Although not all is perfect with the Live Healthy Plan, particularly surrounding the interstate compact, the plan includes several physician-friendly provisions to address the challenge, promoting policies to ensure patients have access to tomorrow's physician-led workforce. Increased funding for the Slots for Docs Program and the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) Program, in conjunction with the creation and funding of the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program, are initiatives successfully promoted by the FOMA and our advocacy partners.

This session, the FOMA:

- ***Successfully*** increased physician reimbursement for treatment under Workers' Compensation;
- ***Successfully*** increased funding for GME, Slots for Docs, FRAME, and other programs to retain tomorrow's physician-led workforce;
- ***Successfully*** opposed the expansion of scope-of-practice surrounding the autonomous practice of advanced practice registered nurses, psychologist prescribing and other measures, reducing potential harm to patients;
- ***Successfully*** opposed measures to expand individuals eligible to file medical malpractice claims.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Chair of FOMA's Legislative Committee and thank you for your involvement in the legislative process. For updated actions on FOMA-monitored bills, please go to the FOMA website at: FOMA.org/legislative-updates.



PAUL SELTZER, DO
FOMA Legislative Chairman

2024 ELECTION INFORMATION

The FOMA encourages its members to get out and vote in the 2024 General Election scheduled for November 5, 2024. If you cannot vote on Election Day, please take advantage of early voting, which begins on October 26 and ends on November 2, 2024. In this cycle, voters will choose representatives for all 120 House and half of the 40 Senate districts (Odd Numbered Districts). No members of the Florida Cabinet are up for election.

The FOMA thanks everyone who has contributed to the FOMA-Pac and supported our legislative program. If you would like to donate, please visit our website at FOMA.org. Thank you for your support and commitment to patients and the profession.

Please note some candidates have been elected to the State Senate and Florida House of Representatives because they ran unopposed or were elected by the voters on August 20, 2024, through the “open primary” process where there is more than one candidate from one political party and no opposition from another party. This process allows voters from any political party to vote for their candidate during the primary election.

The FOMA congratulates the following State Senators and Representatives who have been elected to office:

State Senate:

DIST.	SENATOR ELECT	DIST.	SENATOR ELECT
15	Thompson, Geraldine F. (DEM)	24	Mackenson Bernard (DEM)
17	Smith, Carlos Guillermo (DEM)		

Florida House of Representatives:

DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE ELECT	DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE ELECT
21	Hayes Hinson, Yvonne (DEM)	98	Rosenwald, Mitch (DEM)
41	Antone, Bruce (DEM)	99	Campbell, Daryl Nevroy (DEM)
44	Harris, Jennifer "Rita" (DEM)	101	Cassel, Hillary (DEM)
88	Edmonds, Jervonte "Tae" (DEM)	104	Robinson, Felicia Simone (DEM)
92	Skidmore, Kelly (DEM)	107	Aristide, Wallace (DEM)
95	Hunschofsky, Christine (DEM)	108	Joseph, Dotie (DEM)
96	Daley, Dan (DEM)	109	Cassel, Hillary (DEM)
97	Dunkley, Lisa (DEM)		



HEALTH CARE BUDGET FY 2024-25

The FY 2024-24 budget provides robust funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) and incentive programs to train and retain tomorrow's physician workforce. With the funding provided in SB 7016 (Live Healthy), the allocation for the FRAME Program increased from \$16 million to \$30 million, and the Slots for Docs program increased from \$30 million to \$50 million beginning July 1, 2024. Demonstrating its longstanding commitment to funding GME, the legislature approved \$442 million for graduate medical education (GME), an increase of \$12 million above the current year. Highlights include:

- \$191 million Statewide Medicaid Residency Program
- \$52.5 distributed to the two hospitals with the largest number of graduate medical residents in a statewide supply/demand deficit;
- \$55.7 million GME Startup Bonus Program
- \$50 million Slots for Docs Program, an increase of \$20 million above the current year

Other Budget Highlights:

- \$43.1 million (AHCA) increase for physicians providing pediatric services
- \$100 million for High Tertiary/Statutory Teaching Hospitals
- \$40 million Florida Cancer Innovation Fund
- \$10 million Sickle Cell Treatment and Research

LIVE HEALTHY PLAN ADOPTED

The Florida Legislature, in collaboration with Governor DeSantis, developed the Live Healthy Plan to address the state's critical healthcare workforce shortages and improve access to quality healthcare services. This comprehensive plan is designed to grow Florida's healthcare workforce, incentivize innovation, and expand access to healthcare services for all Floridians.

Background

Florida's healthcare system faces a significant challenge due to a projected physician shortage, reflecting a national trend. The demand for physicians in the U.S. is expected to surpass supply, potentially leading to a shortage of up to 124,000 full-time equivalent physicians by 2034. In Florida, an estimated 17,924 physicians, including 5,974 needed in primary care, will be required by 2035. Despite an increase in the number of physicians in Florida from 43,406 in 2012-13 to 58,062 in 2021-22, the state lags behind the national average in active physicians per 100,000 population, ranking 25th among the 50 states with 273.9 physicians per 100,000 residents compared to the national average of 286.5. Additionally, the average age of practicing physicians in Florida is fifty-three, with 20.6 percent working beyond the typical retirement age of sixty-five. This trend is particularly concerning in rural counties, where more than 25 percent of physicians are considering retirement. The state also ranks 31st nationally in active primary care physicians per 100,000 population, with only 88.5 active primary care physicians per 100,000 residents,



below the national average.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo emphasized the urgency of expanding the healthcare workforce, stating, "If we do not take steps now to grow our healthcare workforce, all Floridians, even those with great insurance, and certainly those on Medicaid, will continue to face barriers to care."

Live healthy Legislation

The Live Healthy initiative resulted in the passage of several critical bills addressing Florida's healthcare workforce shortages and improving healthcare delivery. The initiative led to the successful enactment of multiple pieces of legislation, including SB 7016, SB 7018, SB 1758, SB 330, SB 1600, and HB 7089. These bills seek to enhance the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals, streamline licensure processes, expand access to healthcare services, and promote healthcare innovation throughout the state.

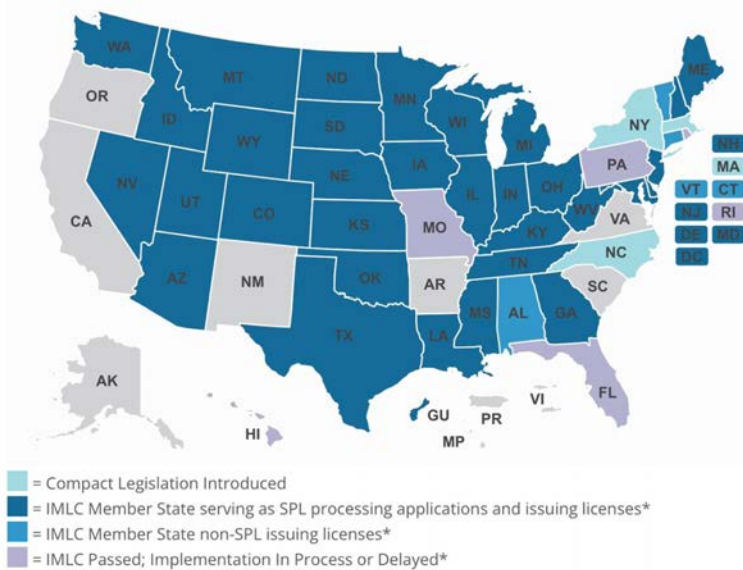
SB 7016 Health Care by Health Policy: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 7016 is the cornerstone of the Live Healthy initiative, focusing on expanding Florida's healthcare workforce by revising licensure and regulatory requirements for healthcare practitioners and facilities. Key provisions include:

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact & Physician Licensure:

The bill enters Florida into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, allowing interstate mobility between states participating in the compact. States participating in the compact **include**:

The bill also removes barriers for foreign-trained physicians and establishes new pathways for graduate assistant physicians.



Expansion of FRAME Program:

SB 7016 significantly increases funding for the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) program to attract and retain more healthcare practitioners in underserved areas. This program provides financial assistance to healthcare professionals, helping to alleviate the burden of medical education loans. The bill increases the four-year award amount to \$150,000 for allopathic and osteopathic physicians. SB 7016 increases total funding for FRAME from \$16 million to \$30 million to support medical education.

TEACH Funding Program:

The TEACH Funding Program addresses the shortage of clinical training sites for medical students by providing financial support to facilities that offer these essential training opportunities. Reimbursement rates are determined by the type of trainee, with medical and dental residents reimbursed at \$50 per hour, medical students at \$27-29 per hour depending on their year, and other health students at varying rates. Qualified facilities can receive up to \$75,000 annually or \$100,000 if they operate a residency program. To receive reimbursement, facilities must meet supervision standards, maintain accreditation, and submit detailed quarterly reports. The program seeks federal matching funds to support these reimbursements.

Nonemergent Care Access Plans (NCAPs):

The bill requires hospitals to develop plans to redirect patients from emergency departments to appropriate care settings.

Medicaid Program Enhancements:

The legislation introduces mandates for reporting potentially preventable healthcare events and assists new Medicaid enrollees with scheduling primary care appointments.

Telehealth Minority Maternity Care Program:

SB 7016 expands the pilot program statewide to improve maternal health outcomes in minority populations through telehealth services.

Health Screening and Practitioner Volunteer Portal and Grant Program:

The legislation facilitates the advertisement of community events and services by healthcare practitioners, connecting Floridians with available free screenings and services provided by physicians.

LIVE HEALTHY PLAN ADOPTED (CONT.)

Mobile Response Teams (MRTs):

SB 7016 enhances and expands MRTs to ensure coverage in every county, focusing on crisis intervention and reducing involuntary commitment.

SB 7018 Health Care Innovation by Health Policy: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 7018 establishes a framework for healthcare innovation in Florida, leveraging entrepreneurship and technological advancements to enhance healthcare delivery and quality - establishing the Health Care Innovation Council. In conjunction with stakeholders, the council is responsible for leading the discussion on innovations that will address challenges in the healthcare system to transform healthcare delivery and strengthen quality. The bill also establishes a revolving loan program to provide low-interest loans for implementing innovative technologies and service delivery models in healthcare.

SB 1600 Interstate Mobility by Collins: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 1600, known as the Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act (MOBILE Act), streamlines the licensure process for healthcare professionals. Under this measure, professionals can receive a Florida license by endorsement within seven days if they submit a complete application, hold an active, unencumbered license from another state or territory with a similar scope of practice, and meet additional criteria such as having practiced for at least three years and passing a national licensure examination. The Department of Health (DOH) will verify applicant information using the National Practitioner Data Bank and can revoke licenses for providing false information.

HB 7089 Transparency in Health and Human Services by Health & Human Services Committee and Rep. Grant: Signed into Law by Governor.

HB 7089 introduces consumer protections relating to medical debt collection by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). The bill prohibits extraordinary collection actions until a facility determines a patient's eligibility for financial assistance and provides an itemized statement. It also mandates price transparency by requiring hospitals and ASCs to post standard charges for services online and provide good faith estimates to patients and insurers.

SB 0330 Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals by Boyd: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 0330 creates the designation of behavioral health teaching hospitals to advance Florida's behavioral health systems of care by creating a new integrated care and education model.

SB 1758 Individuals with Disabilities by Brodeur: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 1758 modifies the application process for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) services, adding an online application process and streamlining the timeframe to determine eligibility. The bill reduces the age requirement for a person's caregiver in pre-enrollment Category IV from seventy to sixty years or older, expanding the pre-enrollment prioritization list. The bill appropriates \$38 million in funding to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, including funds to expand the number of Floridians with Disabilities who receive home and community-based care waiver services.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024



State Senator Victor Torres Addresses the Medical Students on Osteopathic Medicine Health & Awareness Day



FOMA Doctor of the Day, Greg Williams, DO, FAAP & AOA Trustee Richard Thacker, DO, MACOI



FOMA Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO; Florida Representative Dean Black; AOA Third Vice President Josh Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM



Students & Physicians Visit the Florida Senate



FOMA Executive Director addresses the Students & Physicians on Osteopathic Medicine Health & Awareness Day



Medical Students being Briefed on Legislative Issues



State Senator Colleen Burton, receives the FOMA State Senate Legislator Year Award
For a Full List of 2024 Bills Tracked by FOMA Please Visit: [FOMA.org/Bill-Tracking](https://www.foma.org/Bill-Tracking)

FOR A FULL LIST OF 2023
BILLS TRACKED BY FOMA
PLEASE VISIT:
[FOMA.ORG/BILL-TRACKING
OPPOSED](https://foma.org/bill-tracking-opposed)

LEGISLATION NOT ADOPTED

HB 1431 & 1750 - International drug reference pricing: Died in Committee.

Spearheaded by Representative Randy Fine, this legislation would have required the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to establish an upper payment limit for prescription drug coverage based on international reference pricing applicable to Medicaid, the State Group Insurance Program, health maintenance organizations, authorized insurers and cash-paying patients at pharmacies. Several stakeholders, including the FOMA, voiced opposition.

SB 1112 - Healthcare Practitioner Title Protections: Died in Committee.

Despite our best effort, the legislation failed to make it across the finish line in the final week of the session. Although the measure passed both chambers, the House and Senate could not agree on final language concerning the extension of protections to licensed optometrists, and the bill died in returning messages to the House. In 2023, the Governor vetoed similar legislation. SB 1112 would



Physicians retain supervision of physicians' assistants in prescribing or dispensing medications.

have regulated health care practitioner titles and designations, setting specific guidelines for their use in advertisements and patient interactions.

SB 248, SB 310, SB 442, HB 77, & HB 129 Medical Negligence: Died in Committee.

The FOMA and its partners successfully opposed legislation that could have impacted patient access to affordable care and increased the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians. The legislation would have repealed exceptions in the Florida Wrongful Death Act, prohibiting certain parents and children of a deceased patient who dies due to medical negligence from recovering noneconomic damages. Of the six bills filed, only SB 248 received a hearing.

Working with the FOMA and others, Senator Yarborough amended the legislation to mitigate potential increases in malpractice insurance, establishing caps limiting recoverable noneconomic damages that apply to ALL ACTIONS for medical negligence. As amended, SB 248 would have reinstated caps on damages as follows:

- \$500,000 per claimant but limited to \$150,000 if the care was related to emergency services and the claimant and practitioner had no existing patient-practitioner relationship, or limited to \$300,000 per claimant if services were provided to a Medicaid recipient and not provided in a wrongful manner.
- Non-practitioner Limits—\$750,000 per claimant, but they are limited to \$300,000 per claimant if the non-practitioner is a hospital or ambulatory surgical center, services were provided to a Medicaid recipient, and the services were not provided in a wrongful manner.

Although we were successful in amending the legislation, it died in committee. The FOMA continues working with our partners and other stakeholders on this issue, as a legislature will likely file similar legislation in 2025.

HB 257 & SB 810 - Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist: Died in Committee.

The FOMA and our partners successfully advocated against this legislation, ensuring patient safety and access to the highest quality of care. The measure would have expanded the scope of practice of CRNAs to perform pre-anesthesia evaluation, order and administer the anesthetic as determined appropriate, monitor and interpret the patient's vital signs, and manage the patient during surgery and recovery without an established supervisory protocol.

HB 771 & SB 936 - Autonomous Practice for Certified Psychiatric Nurses: Died in Committee.

The FOMA successfully opposed this legislation, which would have authorized a psychiatric nurse registered for autonomous practice to engage in the practice of psychiatric mental health services without an established physician protocol.

HB 955 & SB 1282 - Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists: Died in Committee.

The FOMA successfully opposed legislation expanding the scope of practice of licensed psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications.



L-R: FOMA Legislative Chairman Paul Seltzer, DO; Florida Representative Sam Garrison; FOMA Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO

LEGISLATION ADOPTED OR VETOED

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

HB 473 Cybersecurity Incident Liability: Passed the Legislature, Vetoed by the Governor.

HB 473 bill would have provided broad liability protections for state and local governments and private companies that only substantially comply with minimum cybersecurity standards in the event of a data breach or other cybersecurity incident. In his veto message, the Governor commented that the bill could result in less secure data for Floridians by incentivizing minimal compliance with cybersecurity standards. According to the Governor, the measure provides inadequate consumer recourse in the event of a breach. He urged interested parties to work with the Florida Cybersecurity Advisory Council to develop alternatives that balance liability protection with robust data and operations security.

HB 0159 HIV Infection Prevention Drugs by Franklin II: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 159 allows licensed pharmacists to screen adults for HIV exposure and provide the results of such screening. A pharmacist who has screened a patient for HIV must advise the patient to seek further medical consultation or treatment from a physician. The bill also establishes a process by which a pharmacist may become certified to



Governor Ron DeSantis

order and dispense post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) under a collaborative practice agreement with a physician, establishing minimum criteria for certification. In addition, the bill outlines minimum requirements for collaborative practice agreements. Pharmacies are required to submit an access-to-care plan to the BOP and DOH for pharmacists practicing under such agreements.

HB 1063 Chiropractic Medicine by Hunschofsky: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 1063 expands the scope of chiropractic practice to include mono-filament intramuscular stimulation (dry needling) for treating trigger points or myofascial pain. It requires the Board of Chiropractic Medicine to set practice standards, education, and training requirements and authorizes the board to waive educational requirements for chiropractors with adequate dry-needling training. The bill also allows the board to recognize chiropractic physician applicants for licensure if they provide a credential evaluation report demonstrating their education is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. This change creates a pathway for chiropractors educated outside the U.S. to practice in Florida.

HB 0935 Home Health Care Services by Franklin II: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0935 authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) or a physician assistant (PA) to order or write prescriptions for Medicaid home health services. An APRN or PA ordering the services may not be employed, under contract with, or otherwise affiliated with the home health agency (HHA) rendering the services.

SB 0644 Rural Emergency Hospitals by Simon: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0644 creates a new hospital designation type, “rural emergency hospital” (REH), and defines the requirements for a rural or critical access hospital to apply to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for that designation. SB 644 clarifies that an REH is subject to the requirements to provide emergency services and care for any emergency medical condition in accordance with current law and that an REH is not required to offer acute inpatient care or care beyond 24 hours or to make available other types of care that are required in a standard hospital.

**HEALTHCARE FACILITY
& PRACTITIONER
REGULATIONS**



L to R: Congressman Neal Dunn, MD; Jason D Winn, Esq.; Steve Winn, FOMA Executive Director

HB 1561 Office Surgeries by Busatta Cabrera: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 1561 mandates that physicians performing liposuction of over 1,000 cc of supernatant fat must register their offices with the Department of Health. HB 1561 restricts these procedures and Level II and III office surgeries to registered or licensed facilities, changing penalties for non-compliance to \$5,000 per incident. It also requires offices performing gluteal fat grafting to have significant insurance or an irrevocable letter of credit to cover potential malpractice claims.

HB 1259 Providers of Cardiovascular Services by Andrade: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 1259 authorizes Level I ACS programs to perform adult percutaneous cardiac intervention (PCI) to treat chronic total occlusions and use rotational or other atherectomy devices or electrophysiology when performing PCI.

HB 0975 Background Screenings and Certifications by Trabulsky: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0975 Current law requires certain prospective employees to be screened for a history of criminal offenses to protect vulnerable persons. Certain criminal offenses disqualify the applicant from employment. The bill adds additional crimes to the list of disqualifying offenses for Level 2 background screening, and revises the eligibility criteria for exemptions from disqualification. Current law requires only specified health care professions to undergo background screening as a requirement for initial licensure; most health care professions licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) are not subject to background screening. The bill revises background screening requirements for most licensed health care professionals.

HEALTHCARE FACILITY & PRACTITIONER REGULATIONS (CONT.)

HB 0197 Health Care Practitioners and Massage Therapy by Lopez (V) : Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0197 mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to suspend the license of a massage therapist or establishment if any employee is arrested for crimes such as kidnapping, human trafficking, or prostitution and prohibits any sexual activity and specific types of advertising related to sexual services within massage establishments. The bill also expands the criteria for declaring a massage establishment a public nuisance and sets additional operational requirements.

HB 1065 Substance Abuse Treatment by Caruso: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 1065 redefines "certified recovery residence" by establishing four levels of care, ranging from homes run by residents post-treatment to professionally staffed facilities providing intensive outpatient care. The bill aligns "community housing" definitions with Level IV residences to enhance regulatory clarity and address specific care standards. Additionally, it streamlines operational regulations by allowing a unified license for service providers, extending administrative transition periods, and expanding resident capacity under certain conditions.

SB 0322 Public Records and Meetings by Burton: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0322 creates public records and public meeting exemptions for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

HEALTH INSURANCE

SB 0362 Medical Treatment Under the Workers' Compensation Law by Bradley: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0362 raises the maximum reimbursement allowances (MRA) for physicians from 110% to 175% of the Medicare rate and for surgical procedures from 140% to 210% of the Medicare rate. Additionally, the bill increases the maximum hourly rate for expert medical witnesses from \$200 to \$300 and the maximum daily rate from \$200 to \$300.

HB 0241 Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings by Massullo, MD: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0241 requires the state group health insurance plan to provide coverage for annual skin cancer screening by a dermatologist, physician assistant, or an advanced registered practice nurse. The bill prohibits the plan from imposing a deductible, co-payment, coinsurance, or any other cost sharing requirement for such coverage. The bill prohibits the plan's insurers and health plans from bundling payments for skin cancer screenings with any other procedure or service, including evaluations or management visits, which are performed during the same or subsequent office visit.

HB 0885 Coverage for Bio-marker Testing by Gonzalez Pittman: Signed into Law by the Governor

HB 0885 mandates that the state group insurance plan and Medicaid program cover bio-marker testing for diagnosing, treating, managing, and monitoring diseases. It ensures that enrollees can easily request authorization for testing through accessible websites. The Medicaid program must implement this coverage by October 1, 2024. State group health insurance policies must comply by January 1, 2025.

SB 0168 Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings by Polsky: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0168 mandates the testing of cytomegalovirus (CMV) in newborns born in hospitals with neonatal intensive care services for those born before 35 weeks, needing cardiac care, or requiring extended medical treatment. In the case of hospital transfers, the legislation requires the receiving hospital to perform the CMV test if the originating hospital has not conducted the test. Additionally, the bill ensures that CMV screenings and necessary follow-up evaluations for diagnosis are covered benefits under Medicaid, private health insurers, and HMOs at the agreed rate. Finally, newborns diagnosed with CMV must be referred to a primary care physician and the Children's Medical Services Early Intervention Program for ongoing management.

SB 0808 Treatment by a Medical Specialist by DiCeglie: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0808 amends s. 112.18, F.S., Allowing firefighters, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and correctional probation officers to choose their medical specialists for treating compensable presumptive conditions like tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension. The bill defines a "medical specialist" as a physician licensed under ch. 458 or ch. 459, F.S., with board certification in relevant specialties. It mandates written notice to the workers' compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party administrator before treatment, except in emergencies. The workers' compensation carrier must authorize the chosen specialist or an alternative with equal or greater qualifications within five business days, ensuring treatment begins within 30 days, with costs capped at 200% of the Medicare rate.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HB 0201 Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment by Bell: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0201 expands the authority to dispense an emergency refill of insulin by eliminating both the one-vial limit and the one-time limit. The bill allows the pharmacist to dispense enough insulin until the patient can secure a current prescription order from their primary care physician, Allowing a pharmacist to dispense emergency refills of insulin up to three nonconsecutive times per calendar year, per patient. The bill also authorizes a pharmacist to dispense an emergency refill of insulin-related supplies or equipment if the pharmacist is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from a prescriber. In addition, HB 0201 allows a pharmacist to dispense emergency refills of insulin-related supplies or equipment up to three nonconsecutive times per calendar year, per patient.

HB 0883 Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools by Koster: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0883 authorizes specified health care practitioners to prescribe short-acting bronchodilators and components in the name of a public school or private school. Additionally, the bill authorizes a licensed pharmacist to dispense short-acting bronchodilators and components to a prescription issued in the name of a public or private school. It also provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for schools, trained school personnel, and health care practitioners who act in accordance with the provisions of the bill board to revoke the approval of specialty boards that unduly punish such activity.



Senator Gayle Harrell with FOMA Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO and FOMA Preident Michael Markou, DO FACOPF, and attendees of the FOMA Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day at the State Capitol

PUBLIC HEALTH

SB 1582 Department of Health by Rodriguez: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 1582 clarifies newborn screening responsibilities, standardizes hearing screening requirements, and allows parents of newborns with sickle cell disease to opt out of the state registry. It also creates the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant Program to fund research on rare pediatric diseases. The bill introduces a new profession, the environmental health technician, who can perform septic tank inspections without a four-year degree. Additionally, it expands the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council, provides specific provisions for medical marijuana treatment center licensure applications, and includes rules for deceased applicants.

HB 7021 Mental Health and Substance Abuse by Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 7021 makes substantive changes to Florida's Baker and Marchman Acts by combining court processes to order individuals to involuntary outpatient services and involuntary inpatient placement in the Baker Act to streamline the process for obtaining involuntary services and provide more flexibility for courts to meet individuals' treatment needs. It also repeals existing provisions for court-ordered involuntary assessments and stabilization in the Marchman Act and creates a new consolidated involuntary treatment process.

SB 0066 Revive Awareness Day by Brodeur: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 66 creates "Victoria's Law" and designates June 6 of each year as "Revive Awareness Day." The bill allows the Governor to issue an annual proclamation for the designation of June 6th as "Revive Awareness Day." The bill encourages the Department of Health (DOH) to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the availability and safe use of opioid antagonists.

HB 0415 Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Website by Jacques: Signed into Law by the Governor

HB 0415 mandates that the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), develop and maintain a separate website to provide resources for expectant families and new parents. This new website, to be launched by January 1, 2025, will feature a variety of resources, including educational materials on pregnancy and parenting, maternal and prenatal services, programs for fathers, social services, financial assistance, and adoption services.

HB 0865 Youth Athletic Activities by Yeager: Signed into Law by the Governor.

HB 0865 requires that a Florida public school athletic coach must hold and maintain a certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and the use of an automated external defibrillator. The certification must be consistent with national, evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.

SB 7072 Cancer Funding by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 7072 revises the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program to include promoting high-quality, innovative healthcare for cancer patients in Florida and mandates specific contractual requirements in allocation agreements. The bill specifies that the Cancer Innovation Fund grant funding is available to healthcare providers and facilities demonstrating excellence in patient-centered cancer treatment or research. It also establishes the Cancer Connect Collaborative within the Department of Health to advise on cancer funding, legislation, and policies and to develop a long-range plan by December 1, 2024. Additionally, the bill increases the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council membership to 16, including a representative from

the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, and allocates \$40 million in recurring funds for the Cancer Innovation Fund.

SB 7078 Public Records and Meetings/ Cancer Research Grant Applications by Fiscal Policy: Signed into Law by the Governor

SB 7078 creates a public records exemption for proprietary business information related to cancer research grant applications held by the Department of Health or the Cancer Connect Collaborative.

SB 0186 Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Other Neurodegenerative Diseases Policy Committee by Brodeur: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 0186 establishes the "Justo R. Cortes Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Act," creating a committee under the State Surgeon General to address neurodegenerative diseases, supported by the Department of Health. The committee, comprising 20 diverse members, including healthcare providers and family advocates, must be formed by September 1, 2024. Meetings will begin via teleconference by October 1, 2024. Progress and final reports are due by January 4, 2025, and January 4, 2026, respectively, and the Department of Health will publish the information on its website.



FOMA Legislative Chair Paul Seltzer, DO & FOMA Doctor of the Day Greg Williams, DO, FAAP, with wife Kim Williams, attend the dinner



L to R: FOMA Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO; Florida Representative Dean Black receives the Portrait of Courage Book; FOMA Legislative Chairman Paul Seltzer, DO; FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP

SB 1512 Controlled Substances by Brodeur: Signed into Law by the Governor.

SB 1512 amends s. 893.13, F.S., to add tianeptine to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. Schedule I substances have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

SB 184 Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders by Avila: Signed into Law by Governor.

SB 184 makes it a second-degree misdemeanor for an individual to approach or remain within 25 feet of a first responder after being verbally warned not to if the intent is to impede, threaten, or harass the first responder during their lawful duties. It

defines "first responder" as law enforcement officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, or emergency medical care providers. Additionally, the bill specifies that "harass" involves intentionally causing substantial emotional distress to a first responder through a course of conduct that serves no legitimate purpose.

HB 7009 OGSR/Mental Health Treatment and Services by Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee: Signed into Law by Governor.

The bill saves from repeal the public records exemption relating to all petitions for voluntary and involuntary admission for mental health treatment, court orders, and related records filed with or by a court pursuant to the Baker Act.



Osteopathic Medical Students attending Osteopathic Medicine Health & Awareness Day at the Florida Capitol



Attendees of Osteopathic Medicine Health & Awareness Day attend the dinner



FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACFP, and others Meeting with Florida Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis

For a Full List of 2024 Bills Tracked by FOMA Please Visit: FOMA.org/Bill-Tracking

GET INVOLVED



**Paul Seltzer, DO
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**Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP
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ABOUT the FOMA-PAC & mission statement

We are asking for your support today.

The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Political Action Committee (PAC) is a nonpartisan, non-profit committee that functions along with the Key Contact Physician Program, as a political organization.



L-R: Steve Winn, FOMA Executive Director; FOMA Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO; Florida Representative Dean Black; FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP; FOMA Legislative Chairman Paul Seltzer, DO



L-R: Senator Gayle Harrell and FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP



Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP, is installed as FOMA's 2024-25 President during the FOMA LIVE February Convention.

L-R: FOMA Executive Director Steve Winn; Florida Representative Mike Giallombardo, Past President Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO.



In order to advocate on your behalf, it is important to have a strong, vigorous political action committee. The FOMA-PAC donations are used for campaign contributions on a statewide level. These contributions help re-elect incumbent members, as well as elect new candidates to the Florida Senate and House during statewide elections.

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2024 FOMA-PAC *Roll of Honor*

The FOMA-PAC wishes to express its appreciation to the following contributors. Your financial contributions and your participation in the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Political Action Committee (FOMA-PAC) demonstrate your commitment to osteopathic medicine and your concern for the future of quality healthcare for all Floridians.

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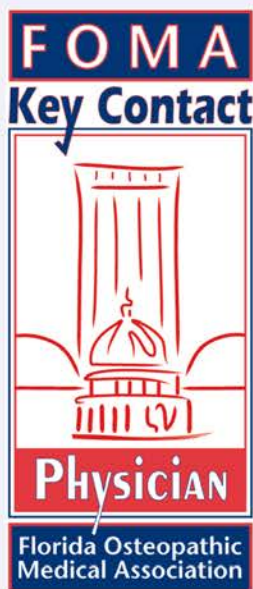
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