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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

KNOW THE ISSUES

Bruce Rankin, DO, FACOPF
President

Paul D. Seltzer, DO
Legislative Chairman

Stephen R. Winn
Chief Executive Officer

Jason D. Winn, Esquire
General Counsel

Legislative Team:
Jason Winn, Esquire
Chris Lyon, Esquire
William Hightower
Alex Golden



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, Key Contact Physicians, staff, and consultants for their steadfast dedication to our profession, ensuring Florida patients have access to the highest quality of care. Working tirelessly, they engaged with legislators and our partners, advocating for the profession and the patients we serve, successfully navigating a demanding and challenging legislative landscape.

The FOMA also thanks all who attended the 30th annual Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day at the Capitol, celebrating the contributions of osteopathic physicians to Florida's healthcare system. This year's FOMA Legislator of the Year honorees are Senate President Pro Tempore Jason Brodeur and Representative Allison Tant. Congratulations, and thank you for supporting the FOMA's work on behalf of patients and physicians.

The budget in 2025 played an integral role in shaping the session, bogging down the process as House and Senate leadership wrestled with budget-related policy. With the American Recovery Act and other federal stimulus funding no longer available, legislators were forced to re-evaluate spending and establish a unified, fiscally sound budget policy. Early in the process, it became evident that reconciling the House and Senate spending proposals would be a heavy lift, as the chambers were compelled to overcome a \$4.4 billion difference between their respective plans. As the deadline approached, the budget conference process collapsed, significantly hindering the progress of substantive legislation. Unable to agree on allocations, the conference process was a non-starter, forcing an extension of the session to resolve the budget.

Despite the gamesmanship surrounding the budget, the FOMA and our advocacy partners had a successful session. As a result of our team's efforts, the Department of Health legislation was successfully amended to expand the medical faculty certificate gateway for physicians. In recognition of the contribution of our osteopathic colleges, the legislation added the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine and Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk COM–Orange Park to the eligible teaching-site roster.

In 2025, lawmakers filed 1,959 bills and passed 269 through both chambers. Governor DeSantis has reviewed all healthcare legislation passed, officially bringing the process to a close. Including budget-conforming legislation, the legislature passed a total of 41 healthcare-related bills in 2025, of which the Governor vetoed 3. This session, the FOMA

- **Successfully** lobbied Governor DeSantis to veto HB 6017, a bill which would have expanded wrongful death cases;
- **Successfully** passed legislation authorizing physicians to perform stem cell therapies that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration when used for orthopedic conditions, wound care, or pain management.
- **Successfully** preserved 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.

The FOMA thanks everyone who has contributed to the FOMA-PAC and supported our legislative program. If you would like to donate, please click on the ADVOCACY Tab located on the FOMA homepage (FOMA.org). Thank you for your support and commitment to the profession.

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](https://foma.org/legislative-updates).



PAUL SELTZER, DO

FOMA Legislative Chairman

GOVERNOR DESANTIS APPOINTS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



On August 12, 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed State Senator Jay Collins as Florida's new Lieutenant Governor, replacing Jeanette Nuñez, who left the post to become President of Florida International University. Collins, a former Green Beret and Purple Heart recipient, took the oath of office during a ceremony at the Green Beret Association in Tampa. He brings a distinguished record of public service, championing legislation to

support veterans, strengthen disaster preparedness, and expand family programs such as Hope Florida. The FOMA congratulates Lieutenant Governor Collins and wishes him success in his new role. A special election will fill the Senate seat he vacates.

2025 SPECIAL ELECTIONS

In early April, voters in impacted districts returned to the ballot box to fill two unexpected U.S. House vacancies. In the Panhandle's 1st District, former state Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis cruised to victory over Democrat Gay Valimont, capturing nearly 57 percent of the vote. At the same time, in northeast Florida's 6th District, vacated when Mike Waltz was appointed to serve as National Security Advisor, former state Senator Randy Fine secured a similar margin against Democrat Josh Weil, solidifying Republican control in both seats.

By early June, Florida's "resign-to-run" law had prompted three state legislative special elections. On June 10, Republican Nathan Boyles won an open contest in House District 3 after his predecessor left to pursue higher office. In Brevard County's House District 32, businessman Brian Hodgers edged out his Democratic opponent with just over 55 percent support. The same day, former State Representative Debbie Mayfield reclaimed her old Senate District 19 seat.

On June 24, Orange County held primaries for two more legislative vacancies. In House District 40, RaShon Young emerged as the Democratic nominee to face Republican Tuan Le in the fall. And in the high-profile Democratic Senate primary for District 15, resulting from Senator Geraldine Thompson's death, State Representative LaVon Bracy Davis outpaced her

competitors to become the party's standard-bearer for the September 2, 2025 special general election.

Governor DeSantis appointed veteran legislator Senator Blaise Ingoglia as Florida's new Chief Financial Officer, filling the office left vacant by Jimmy Patronis. That move set the stage for a special election in Senate District 11 this fall, where all eyes are on Dr. Massullo, a former four-term state representative and physician, who has already begun campaigning vigorously and securing key endorsements in this Republican District.

In House District 90, the major party contests have coalesced around Delray Beach Vice Mayor Rob Long and a Republican primary between Boynton Beach entrepreneur Bill Reicherter and veteran lobbyist Maria Zack. They will vie for their party nominations on September 30 before the December 9 general election.

HEATH CARE **BILLS VETOED**

On May 29, 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis vetoed HB 6017, maintaining Florida's longstanding limits on noneconomic damages in certain medical negligence wrongful death cases. The FOMA thanks Governor DeSantis for taking this action and for recognizing the importance of protecting physicians from expanded liability without corresponding safeguards.



The FOMA, along with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) and other physician advocacy partners, opposed the measure throughout the 2025 Legislative Session and supported an amendment by Senate sponsor Senator Yarborough to add a \$1 million cap on such damages. The amendment failed on second reading, and the bill advanced without any safeguards.

Florida's Wrongful Death Act prohibits two groups from recovering noneconomic damages in medical negligence cases: adult children aged 25 or older of a deceased parent when there is no surviving spouse, and parents of a deceased adult child aged 25 or older when the child has no other survivors. HB 6017 would have removed these restrictions, opening the door to increased wrongful death litigation.

HEALTH CARE BILLS VETOED

In his veto letter, **Governor DeSantis stated, “Any approach to medical negligence reform must include proper safeguards to prevent abuse by predatory attorneys. HB 6017 would drive up costs, expose providers to unpredictable liability, and make it harder to attract physicians, especially in rural and aging communities, without improving quality, access, or outcomes for Florida families.”**

This legislation is a priority of House Speaker Daniel Perez. Shortly after the Governor’s veto, the Speaker responded, announcing his plans to seek an override. “We believe the Legislature got this one right, and we’ll be working to ensure Florida families have equal access to seek damages in these cases,” (Speaker Perez). **An override requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers.**

Preserving these protections is essential to maintaining access to care for patients across Florida. The FOMA will continue to work with lawmakers and advocacy partners to oppose any override effort and to ensure Florida’s medical liability laws balance accountability with the ability of physicians to deliver high-quality, accessible care.

Governor DeSantis also vetoed House Bill 5015, which would have required the Department of Management Services to develop annual prescription-drug formularies. Under the measure, the 14-member Legislative Budget Commission would be responsible for approving the formulary before its implementation. In his veto message, Governor DeSantis expressed concerns surrounding increased costs and restricted access for state employees.

Finally, Governor Ron DeSantis vetoed CS/HB 1427, which would have added new regulations and stricter requirements for pre-licensure nursing programs. While the bill sought to raise standards through more rigid approval rules, shorter probation timelines, mandatory remediation, tuition reimbursements, and expanded Board of Nursing oversight, the Governor believed it created unnecessary burdens that could discourage programs from accepting students and make it harder to recruit and keep nursing faculty. He warned it would reduce opportunities for students, deter career changers, and slow progress in strengthening Florida’s nursing workforce.



HEALTH CARE BUDGET

FY 2025-26



Lawmakers approved a health and human services budget totaling \$47.6 billion, 41 percent of the \$115.1 billion state budget. The funding appropriated includes the following related to cancer and biomedical research:

- \$127,500,000: Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program (Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers)
- \$70,850,000: Biomedical research grants (via the Biomedical Research Trust Fund)
- \$7,850,000: James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program
- \$10,000,000: William G. “Bill” Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program
- \$60,000,000: Florida Cancer Innovation Fund
- \$60,000,000: Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator
- \$3,000,000: Live Like Bella Initiative (pediatric cancer research)

The FY 2025-26 budget provides robust funding for GME totaling \$635.5 million. These funds include \$191.08 million for the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program to increase residency slots in teaching hospitals across the state. \$100 million is designated for the Graduate Medical Education Startup Bonus Program, offering incentives to over 30 specialties experiencing shortages. Lawmakers also approved \$80 million for the Slots for Doctors Program, established to create new residency positions in high-demand areas. Finally, \$166 million is allocated to High-Tertiary Statutory Teaching Hospital Funding, supporting hospitals that exceed federal resident caps and provide critical services such as stroke care, Level 2 cardiovascular procedures, NICU II/III, and adult open-heart surgery.

Working within tight budget allocations, the Health & Human Services budget conferees cut funding for the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) program by \$15 million. The House's original position in the conference was to cut last year's increase totaling \$30 million. The FOMA's legislative team, in conjunction with our partners, secured the budget conferee's agreement to reduce the proposed cut, preserving some of last year's increased funding. The FOMA will work to restore funding in the next session.

**FOR A FULL LIST OF 2025
BILLS TRACKED BY FOMA PLEASE VISIT:
[FOMA.ORG/BILL-TRACKING](https://foma.org/bill-tracking) OPPOSED**

LEGISLATION NOT ADOPTED

The FOMA and our legislative partners successfully opposed multiple scope of practice expansion bills during the 2025 Legislative Session, safeguarding patient safety and preserving Florida's physician-led care model:

**Successfully opposed HB 803 (Rep. Alvarez)
/ SB 1722 (Sen. Wright) – Acupuncture**

This legislation would have expanded the scope of acupuncture practice by broadening treatment modalities, updating licensure requirements, and aligning Florida statutes with national models.

**Successfully opposed SB 718 (Sen. Rodriguez) / HB 649 (Rep. Giallombardo) –
Psychiatric Nurses:**

This legislation would have granted psychiatric nurses independent admitting and discharge authority, removing physician oversight for critical inpatient psychiatric decisions.

**Successfully opposed SB 758 (Sen. Simon)
/ HB 883 (Rep. Shoaf) – Certified Registered
Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs):**

This legislation would have authorized CRNAs to independently administer anesthesia in all practice settings without physician supervision.



**Successfully opposed SB 564 (Sen. Gruters) /
HB 849 (Rep. Tramont) – Chiropractic:**

This legislation would have expanded chiropractic practice to include limited prescription privileges for certain medications.

Successfully opposed HB 23 (Rep. Franklin) / SB 250 (Sen. Simon) – Psychologists:

This legislation would have granted psychologists prescriptive authority for psychotropic medications following additional training, removing the requirement for physician collaboration.

Successfully opposed SB 470 (Sen. Rodriguez) / HB 533 (Rep. Smith) – Naturopathic Physicians:

This legislation would have established licensure and defined the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians, creating a separate regulatory framework and recognizing them as independent healthcare providers.

Successfully opposed HB 647 (Rep. Trabulsy) / SB 998 (Sen. Calatayud) – Physician Assistants and APRNs (Hospice/Palliative Care):

This legislation would have expanded authority for PAs and APRNs in hospice and palliative care, including the ability to certify patients and develop independent treatment plans.

Successfully opposed HB 449 (Rep. Rizo) – Optometry:

This legislation would have expanded the range of procedures optometrists could perform and revised the composition of the Board of Optometry.

THANK YOU TO FOMA 2025 DOCTOR OF THE DAY, PHYSICIANS!



Serving as Doctor of the Day, FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, visits with Representative Phillip Wayne "Griff" Griffiths Jr.



Dr. Mark Dobbertien, FACS, MBA, CPE serves as Doctor of the Day



Serving as Doctor of the Day Dr. Joseph Sassano & Senator Joe Gruters



Charlene LePane, DO, MBA, MSPH, FACOI, FACG serving as Doctor of the Day



Michelle Mendez, DO - serving as Doctor of the Day - meets with Senator Clay Yarborough



Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN, - serving as Doctor of the Day - meets Florida Senator Colleen Burton

LEGISLATION ADOPTED

MEDICAID

SB 1490 – Children’s Medical Services (CMS) Program (Sen. Harrell)

The bill transfers Children’s Medical Services managed care plan contracts, serving children and youth with special health care needs, from the Department of Health to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). Requires AHCA to develop a redesign plan for the Medicaid Model Waiver with a new tiered service array for recipients of private duty nursing, and to report to the Governor and legislative leaders by December 31, 2025. Mandates a multiyear evaluation of the current Medicaid service model for medically fragile children, with a final report due to the Governor and Legislature. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 1156 – Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children (Sen. Harrell)

The bill requires AHCA to seek federal approval to exclude HHAMFC family income from Medicaid eligibility determinations. It raises the reimbursable service cap to 12 hours per day and 40 hours per week per child. Reduces required training from 85 to 76 hours, including 40 hours of home health aide training, 20 hours of nursing skills training



Governor Ron DeSantis

tailored to the child, and 16 hours of supervised clinical training. Mandates home health agencies to report HHAMFC-related adverse incidents within 48 hours to managed care plans and AHCA, with inclusion in AHCA’s annual assessment report. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SB 1768 — Stem Cell Therapy (Sen. Trumbull)

The bill authorizes licensed physicians, including both medical doctors and doctors of osteopathic medicine, to perform certain non-FDA-approved stem cell therapies for orthopedic conditions, wound care, or pain management. It establishes strict standards for the retrieval, manufacture, storage, and use of stem cells, requiring that they come from FDA-registered facilities accredited by recognized national or international organizations. These facilities must also provide post-thaw viability analysis reports before use.

Physicians must obtain signed informed consent

from patients, disclosing that the therapy is not FDA-approved, explaining its nature, purpose, risks, possible benefits, and alternatives, and encouraging consultation with the patient's primary care provider. Additionally, all advertisements for non-FDA-approved stem cell therapies must include a clearly legible notice in a font no smaller than the largest type in the ad. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 647 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Services (Rep. Trabulsy)

The bill authorizes advanced practice registered nurses providing hospice care, and acting within an established protocol with a licensed physician, to file a certificate of death or fetal death and certify the cause of death. Effective: July 1, 2025.



L-R: Jason Winn, Esq; Lieutenant Governor of Florida Jay Collins, & Steve Winn.

HB 1299 – Department of Health (Rep. Koster)

HB 1299 revises several provisions of law relating to Florida's health care workforce, health care services, and health care practitioner licensure and regulation related to the Department of Health. It revises the list of institutions eligible for medical faculty certificates to add the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Orange Park, Florida, and Loma Linda University School of Medicine – AdventHealth regional campuses in Orlando, Florida.

In addition, it specifies that physician assistants must hold a license to practice in a U.S. state or the District of Columbia to qualify for a temporary certificate to serve in areas of critical need. It defines the term "party state" for purposes of the Physical Therapy Compact, ensuring consistency in multistate practice rules. The bill also extends the scheduled repeal of the definition of "messenger ribonucleic acid vaccine" from 2025 to 2027. Additionally, it replaces references to the "American Association of Physician Specialists" with the "American Board of Physician Specialties" throughout Chapters 458 and 459, Florida Statutes. Effective: July 1, 2025.

BILLING & INSURANCE

SB 158 – Coverage for Diagnostic & Supplemental Breast Examinations (Sen. Berman)

The bill mandates that state employee group health insurance products offer coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without imposing any cost-sharing obligations on the insured, such as deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance. Additionally, the bill establishes guidelines for determining what constitutes a supplemental breast examination. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 677 – State Group Insurance: Fertility Preservation (Rep. Trabulsy)

The bill requires state group health insurance program policies issued on or after January 1, 2026, to cover standard fertility services for enrollees who have been diagnosed with cancer for which the necessary treatment may cause infertility. . Such policies must cover fertility retrieval and preservation services, including ovarian tissue, sperm, and oocyte retrieval

BILLING & INSURANCE (CONT.)

and cryopreservation methods consistent with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and definitions. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 1808 – Refund of Patient Overpayments (Sen. Burton)

The bill requires health care practitioners, Agency for Health Care Administration-licensed facilities, and health care practitioner ancillary entities to refund a patient for any overpayment made by the patient within 30 days of determining that an overpayment was made. It expressly states the provisions do not apply to overpayments made to health care practitioners by commercial health insurers and health maintenance organizations. Effective: July 1, 2025.



SB 108 – Administrative Procedures (Sen. Grall)

The bill revises the Administrative Procedure Act to enhance public input, improve transparency, and establish stricter timelines for rulemaking. It requires all agencies to review their existing rules within five years and to review each new rule during its fifth year after adoption, ensuring consistency with statutory authority and identifying needed updates. Agencies must begin rulemaking within set deadlines following legislative mandates, publish incorporated materials in searchable formats with clear markups, and provide full texts of emergency rules in the Florida Administrative Code. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 547 – Medical Debt (Rep. Partington)

The bill provides an exception to the requirement that hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) provide 30 days' notice to consumers before selling their medical debt. The exception applies if the facility and the debt buyer have a contract that states that the debt may not incur interest or fees, the debt buyer may not engage in other extraordinary collection actions that the facility could otherwise engage in, and the debt buyer will return the debt to the licensed facility if it finds that the debt qualifies for the facility's charity care program. Effective: July 1, 2025.

ADMINISTRATION

SB 68 – Health Facilities (Sen. Martin)

The bill expands the authority of Health Facilities Authorities (HFAs) to provide financing not only to not-for-profit corporations but also to not-for-profit limited liability companies and corporate parents of health systems. It allows HFAs to structure transactions as loan agreements, including mortgages or secured/unsecured loans, for financing health care projects or refinancing existing obligations. Additionally, the bill modifies the fentanyl testing requirement enacted earlier in 2025 by changing it from mandatory to optional for hospitals to perform confirmation testing after a positive urine test for fentanyl. Effective: July 1, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2025



FOMA Chief Executive Officer addresses the Students & Physicians on Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day



FOMA Director-at-large Sean McCann, DO (Center) and OCOM Students visit the Florida Senate



FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FISHRs, FACOFP; FOMA Chief Executive Officer, Steve Winn; Senate President Ben Albritton; Legislative Chair, Paul Seltzer, DO; FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOFP



House Representative Allison Tant, receives the FOMA Representative Legislator of the Year Award



Medical Students being briefed on Legislative Issues



State Senator Gayle Harrell, receives the FOMA State Senate Legislator of the Year Award
 For a Full List of 2025 Bills Tracked by FOMA Please Visit: FOMA.org/Bill-Tracking

PUBLIC HEALTH & PATIENT SERVICES

SB 112 – Children with Developmental Disabilities (Sen. Harrell)

The bill enhances state programs for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities by expanding early intervention, school readiness services, specialized education, and professional training. It codifies and expands the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment's (UF CAN) responsibilities, creates new grant programs, and establishes the Early Steps Extended Option, allowing eligible children to remain in the Early Steps Program until the start of the school year after their fourth birthday. Families must choose between this program and IDEA Part B services, with coordinated transitions to school district programs. The Department of Health must seek federal approval by July 1, 2026, track program performance, and receive \$720,282 in recurring funds, \$35,622 in nonrecurring funds, and six new positions for implementation. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 168 – “Tristin Murphy Act” (Sen. Bradley)

The “Tristin Murphy Act” creates alternative pathways for prosecuting defendants with mental illness, intellectual disability, or autism by encouraging evaluation and services in community settings when feasible. It establishes model misdemeanor and felony mental health diversion programs that allow eligible defendants to consent to treatment instead of incarceration, with potential charge dismissal upon successful completion. The bill also expands grant-supported diversion initiatives, including veterans' treatment courts, specialized training for 911 operators and EMTs, and crisis intervention teams, with funding exceptions for fiscally constrained counties. Additionally, it authorizes a Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program in Hillsborough County,

modeled after the Miami-Dade Forensic Alternative Center. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 519 – Paramedics & Controlled Substances (Rep. Bartleman)

The bill authorizes certain licensed health care practitioners to direct and supervise certified paramedics in administering controlled substances during emergency services. Practitioners who may grant this authorization include physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians, advanced practice registered nurses, naturopaths, and optometrists, aligning Florida law with federal provisions. Effective: July 1, 2025.



L-R: OCOM Associate Dean of Clinical Education, Gary Hill, DO, FACOI; Steve Winn; OCOM Student Ledio Gjunkski

HB 597 – Diabetes in Schools (Rep. Smith)

The bill authorizes public schools and school districts to obtain and maintain undesignated glucagon for students with diabetes experiencing hypoglycemic emergencies. Glucagon may be acquired through prescriptions from county health departments or authorized healthcare practitioners, or via arrangements with manufacturers or suppliers. It establishes storage, maintenance, and administration requirements, and provides immunity from liability to schools, employees, and suppliers, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct. Effective: July 1, 2025.



FOMA legislative Chair, Paul Seltzer, DO; FOMA President, Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOFP; Senate President Ben Albritton, FOMA Past President, Michael Markou, DO, FISHS, FACOFP and attendees of the FOMA Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day at the State Capitol

HB 633 – Behavioral Health Managing Entities (Rep. Koster)

The bill HB 633 requires managing entities (MEs) to submit data and documentation to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in a specific electronic format to ensure interoperability and allow for analysis. It requires DCF to conduct operational and financial audits addressing specific topics for each ME contract, and prepare and submit a report of findings to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2025. The bill also specifies performance measures for client outcomes that MEs must track and submit to DCF. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 791 – Surrendered Infants (Safe Haven) (Rep. Cobb)

Expands authorized locations to accept surrendered newborns and clarifies intake procedures for receiving facilities. Standardizes notice, transfer, and records; provides liability

protections under specified conditions. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 907 – Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases (Rep. Anderson)

Establishes a statewide institute to coordinate research, education, and clinical collaboration for pediatric rare diseases. Defines structure/duties, potential partnerships, and DOH support. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 969 – Student Mental Health Outcomes (Rep. Cassel)

Requires school districts to collect/report specified student mental-health outcome data, with standardized metrics to inform program evaluation. Coordinates definitions and timelines with the Department of Education. Effective: July 1, 2025.

LEGISLATION



Richard Thacker, DO, MACOI & Joshua Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM Briefing Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day Student Attendees



Steve Winn giving a tour of the capitol to Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day Student Attendees

PUBLIC HEALTH & PATIENT SERVICES (CONT.)

***HB 1089 – Newborn Screenings (Rep. Booth)**

Expands Florida's newborn screening panel in line with the federal RUSP and updates DOH lab procedures, timelines, and follow-up processes. Ensures statewide access for the added conditions. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 1091 – Substance Abuse & Mental Health Care (Rep. Gonzalez Pittman)

Updates statutes governing the statewide system for substance abuse and mental-health services. Revises responsibilities, processes, and contracting to improve access and coordination across providers/payers. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 1286 – Harming or Neglecting Children (Sen. Grall)

Strengthens penalties/procedures related to child abuse, neglect, and endangerment. Aligns definitions/evidentiary provisions and clarifies responsibilities of agencies and courts. Effective: July 1, 2025.

HB 1545 – Parkinson's Disease (Rep. Busatta Cabrera)

Creates statewide initiatives to improve Parkinson's disease education, data, and coordination. Encourages partnerships among state agencies, academic centers, and community organizations. Effective: July 1, 2025.



Steve Winn giving a tour of the capitol to Osteopathic Medicine Awareness Day Student Attendees



FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOPF; FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FISHS, FACOPF



Student Attendees of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day visiting the Senate Chamber

HB 1567 – Insulin Administration by Direct-Support Professionals & Relatives (Rep. Tuck)

Authorizes trained direct-support professionals and specified relatives to administer insulin under defined conditions. Establishes training, competency, and documentation requirements tied to prescriber orders. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 1620 – Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders (Sen. Rouson)

Enhances insurance parity and oversight for MH/ SUD coverage. Clarifies plan obligations and reporting to ensure nondiscriminatory benefit management; coordinates regulatory enforcement with state agencies. Effective: July 1, 2025.

SB 958 – Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection (Sen. Bernard)

Establishes a statewide pediatric Type 1 diabetes early-detection and education program. Coordinates DOH, schools, and providers on awareness and referral for early identification. Effective: July 1, 2025.

INTERIM COMMITTEES



Attendees of the FOMA Osteopathic Medicine and Healthcare Awareness Day at the State Capitol

Interim committees for the 2026 Legislative Session are just around the corner as lawmakers, policy analysts, and others begin preparing their legislative priorities for 2026. Slated to start the week of October 6, 2025, the interim committee meetings will run intermittently through the week of December 8, 2025, in preparation for the convening of the Regular Session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Meeting Schedules

- October 6–10, 2025
- October 13–17, 2025
- November 3–7, 2025
- November 17–21, 2025
- December 1–5, 2025
- December 8–12, 2025



FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF; FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FISHS, FACOF; Florida Senator Colleen Burton; FOMA Legislative Chair Paul Seltzer, DO



Medical Students of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day attend the dinner



FOMA Legislative Chair Paul Seltzer, DO & FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF, SHRS, present Senator Debbie Mayfield with "Portraits of Courage" Book



Glenn Perrigon; Dianne Pappachristou DO; FOMA Chief Executive Officer, Steve Winn

For a Full List of 2025 Bills Tracked by FOMA Please Visit: FOMA.org/Bill-Tracking

GET INVOLVED



**Paul Seltzer, DO
Legislative Chair**



**Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF
FOMA President**

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: Legislative Chair, Paul Seltzer, DO; FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF; Senate President Ben Albritton; FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF, FISHRS



L-R: FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF; Senator Jason Brodeur Legislative Assit. Mason Nash; FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF, FISHRS



FOMA President, Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF, visiting the Senate Chamber

L-R: Legislative Chair, Paul Seltzer, DO; FOMA Past President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF, FISHRS; Senator Gayle Harrell; FOMA President Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOF; Joseph Sassano, DO; Josh Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFH.



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.

TO ENSURE, MAINTAIN, AND STRENGTHEN MY
PRACTICE RIGHTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA
I AM CONTRIBUTING TO THE FOMA-PAC

contribution levels (cumulative)

Each Level Receives: Corresponding PAC Pin & Certificate

11 DIAMOND - \$40,000	5 DIAMOND - \$10,000
10 DIAMOND - \$30,000	4 DIAMOND - \$7,500
9 DIAMOND - \$25,000	3 DIAMOND - \$5,000
8 DIAMOND - \$20,000	2 DIAMOND - \$2,500
7 DIAMOND - \$15,000	1 DIAMOND - \$1,000
6 DIAMOND - \$12,000	

Key Contact Physician - \$500 Annually

Please check/list the amount you are contributing this year toward the FOMA-PAC. You may also donate online at: <https://www.foma.org/foma-pac.html>

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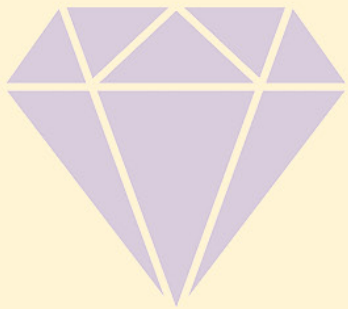
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2025 FOMA-PAC

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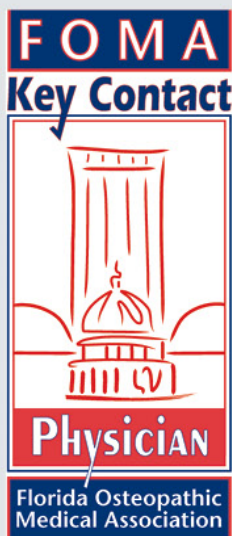
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