

SUPPORT

1. Expand the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) program to include emergency physicians working in rural hospitals, ensuring access to life-saving emergency care in underserved communities.

SB 110 by Sen. Simon: Rural Communities

HB 1427 by Reps. Griffiths, Abbott and Barnaby: Rural Communities

- Adds emergency physicians in rural hospitals to loan repayment aid to attract and retain qualified physicians in underserved communities.
- Supporting rural EM physicians through loan repayment strengthens Florida's emergency care safety net and helps ensure 24/7 readiness in high-need areas.
- Expanding FRAME to emergency physicians in rural hospitals helps recruit and retain providers where access to care is most limited, ensuring patients in underserved areas receive timely, life-saving treatment.

OPPOSE

2. Ensure patient-centered and efficient emergency care by preserving physician judgement and discretion to provide timely prescriptions when electronic transmission would negatively impact a patient's medical condition.

SB 1568 by Sen. Brodeur: Electronic Prescribing

HB 1297 by Rep. Partington: Electronic Prescribing

- Removes emergency physicians' ability to use their clinical judgment to issue timely, non-electronic prescriptions when technology fails or when it's in the patient's best interest.
- Requesting the legislature to maintain the exception allowing emergency physicians to issue prescriptions without delay when electronic prescribing isn't practical or could harm the patient.
- FCEP requests the reinsertion of the exception permitting non-electronic prescriptions when comparing pharmacy prices is in the patient's best interest, with documentation in the medical record.

OPPOSE

3. Personal Injury Protection: If PIP must be repealed, make sure reimbursement of emergency care is timely and protected like it currently is.

SB 1256 by Sen. Grall: Motor Vehicle Insurance

HB 1181 by Rep. Alvarez: Motor Vehicle Insurance

- PIP guarantees prompt medical payments, ensuring injured motorists receive life-saving treatment without delays or financial disputes.
- Shifting to a fault-based system would **increase auto and health insurance costs**, with **\$470 million in expenses** pushed onto private insurers, leading to **higher premiums for consumers**.
- Ending No-Fault protections would increase personal injury lawsuits, causing delays in treatment, higher legal costs, and a more congested court system.
- A weakened medical payments system could leave physicians and hospitals struggling to recover costs, threatening their ability to provide consistent emergency care across the state.

If reform is necessary, it must prioritize patient access and financial protections by:

- Keeping the \$5,000 physician set-aside to ensure emergency providers are paid first.
- Requiring clear opt-out provisions for Medical Payments coverage, rather than a weak "offering" requirement.

4. Support measures to prevent workplace violence in emergency departments and protect emergency physicians by ensuring a public records exemption for their personal information.

SB 746 by Sen. Yarborough: Public Record/ Medical Examiners

HB 231 by Rep. Kendall: Public Record/ Medical Examiners

- Protecting healthcare workers from escalating threats and physical attacks ensures safer environments for both physicians and patients.
- FCEP proposes amendments to SB 746/HB 231 to include emergency medicine physicians under the public records exemption, ensuring consistent protection across medical professions involved in critical and sensitive care.
- Keeping personal information confidential prevents stalking, harassment, and retaliation against emergency physicians and their families.

ONGOING POLICY PRIORITIES:

We are monitoring bills as they are filed for impact to emergency medicine and patients with emphasis on the areas of focus:

Limit scope of practice expansion: We believe in physician led care teams in all aspects of healthcare.

- SB 250 by Sen. Simon/ HB 23 by Rep. Franklin II: Prescriptive Authority Certification for Psychologists
- SB 718 by Sen. Rodriguez/ HB 649 by Rep. Giallombardo: Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- SB 758 by Sen. Simon/ HB 883 by Rep. Shoaf: Autonomous Practice by Certain Psychiatric Nurses

Patients deserve care led by physicians- the most highly educated, trained and skilled healthcare professionals. Supporting physician led care and opposing attempts by nonphysicians to inappropriately expand their scope of practice emphasizes patient safety and safeguards the practice of medicine.

FCEP ALSO SUPPORTS:

- **HB 1341 by Rep. Gonzalez Pittman/ SB 172 by Sen. Burton: Health Care Practitioner Identification**
Ensures patients can clearly identify their emergency care providers and prevents misuse of medical titles to protect patient safety.
- **HB 1231 by Rep. Black/ SB 1526 by Sen. Harrell: Retroactive Denials**
Protects emergency physicians from retroactive insurance denials, ensuring fair payment for urgent care already delivered.
- **HB 1119 by Rep. Oliver/ SB 1602 by Sen. Harrell: Health Care Patient Protection**
Improves Florida's readiness to handle pediatric emergencies by strengthening coordination and age-appropriate response planning.
- **HB 1437 by Rep. Snyder/ SB 1840 by Sen. Martin: Attorney Fees and Costs for Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Protection Benefits**
If a health care provider sues for unpaid medical bills under a motor vehicle personal injury protection (PIP) policy and wins, they can recover reasonable attorney fees and legal costs.

FCEP ALSO OPPOSES:

- **HB 333 by Rep. Robinson/ SB 522 by Sen. Rouson: Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education**
Places unnecessary burdens on emergency physicians by mandating condition-specific CME, limiting flexibility to focus on the most relevant and broad clinical education for emergency care.
- **HB 6017 by Rep. Trabulsky/ SB 734 by Sen. Yarborough: Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions**
Could increase liability exposure for emergency physicians, leading to defensive medicine and diverting focus from timely, life-saving care.
- **HB 1517 by Rep. Greco/ SB 1284 by Sen. Grall: Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child**
Recoverable Damages: Parents may recover damages for mental pain and suffering resulting from the wrongful death of their unborn child. Many women experiencing miscarriages are treated in emergency departments, where, in many cases, no medical intervention can prevent the loss. FCEP remains concerned with additional legal actions that could occur when providing care for women experiencing a miscarriage.