



## **A Message from FMA President Corey Howard, M.D.**

The 2019 legislative session began Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and I have been in Tallahassee four out of those eight days. On Tuesday, I testified before the Florida House Health Quality Subcommittee against the independent practice bill for nurse practitioners and physician assistants. The bill has a statement coining a new term for “autonomous physician’s assistant” which I stated was not a real term and physician’s assistants are medical professionals who operate under a physician’s supervision. If you remove the assistant part, what is left? We need to find more ways to collaborate in healthcare so we can work towards improving care our patients need and deserve.

Emergency Medicine Legislative Days was held in Tallahassee on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and I had the honor of addressing that group on the morning of March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Last night, there was a reception at the FMA’s headquarters. This open event was an excellent

opportunity for me to connect with local physicians and give a legislative update. In addition to updating the group on legislative affairs, we unveiled the new FMA Healthy Living Initiative and Toolkit. This is a free resource available to all physicians and if you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Lauren Byrd at 850-224-6496.

The next two weeks include a general membership meeting in Naples and a trip back to Tallahassee to speak to the Deans of the medical schools. Medical students will visit Tallahassee on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for the annual FMA Legislative Day. It is my honor to welcome these students to Tallahassee as they begin to see the benefits of what advocacy and organized medicine can do for the good of physicians across the state.

