



FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC

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FMA 2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITY ISSUES TO PASS: **MEDICAID TO MEDICARE**

Increase the reimbursement rate for Medicaid to that of Medicare.

MANAGED CARE

Pass legislation that would require managed care companies to accept a valid assignment of benefits, legislation that would prohibit silent PPOs, and change certain provisions of the prompt payment law.

PROFESSIONALS RESOURCE NETWORK

Obtain sovereign immunity for the two state programs (PRN and IPN) that provide impairment services to health care licensees. Require occupational listing on death certificates.

ER SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

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

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.

EXPERT WITNESS CERTIFICATE

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

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA

Seek a one dollar increase in Florida's cigarette excise tax with the revenues to be used to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to Medicare levels, to provide additional funding for the Kidcare program, and to provide additional Medicaid services.

ISSUES TO SUPPORT:

PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW

Enact legislation that would make seat belt violations a primary offense in Florida.

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.

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.

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PRIORITY ISSUES TO OPPOSE:

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.

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.

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.