



Florida Services
Chapter



FL Governor Advocate Newsletter

Ankush K. Bansal, MD, FACP, SFHM, President/Governor ❖ Elisa Sottile, MD, FACP, Governor

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

Ankush K Bansal, MD FACP SFHM, President/Governor



The dust settled, the legislators and lobbyists went home, and the chambers locked until after Election Day. While the 2024 Legislative Session will be remembered mostly for what did NOT pass, some notable legislation did pass.

For instance, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's Live Healthy package cleared both chambers. This initiative would ease the process for international physicians to become licensed in Florida (although we did get an amendment requiring such physicians to have had a medical residency "substantially similar" to an ACGME-approved program) and has Florida joining the Interstate Licensing Compact.

Also passing was an Office Surgery Bill that, as originally drafted would have stopped most office surgery while all such facilities were inspected to determine if they should be classified as ambulatory surgical centers. As finally passed, however, the legislation only affects those performing gluteal fat transfers (a/k/a Brazilian Butt Lifts), and merely requires facilities performing such procedures to have malpractice insurance or a Letter of Credit.

In an unexpected victory for all physicians, the Legislature passed a Workers Compensation pay raise for physicians, with surgeons now receiving 210% of the Medicare allowance (up from 140%), and other services to be compensated at 175% of Medicare (up from 110%).

As mentioned in the opening, 2024 will also be remembered for what did NOT pass. As always, Scope of Practice Defense was one of our priorities, and I am pleased to announce that no notable Scope of Practice expansion occurred, despite the best efforts of Naturopaths, Nurses, and other allied health providers. In a more controversial initiative, an effort to ban restrictive covenants for health care providers was not even considered in the House and therefore dies, as did an effort to require physicians to accept cash for most services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those physicians who took time away from their practices and families to communicate with legislators and me throughout the Session, especially Governor Ankush K. Bansal, MD FACP, Governor Elisa Sottile, MD FACP, and Shane Burstiner, DO, all of whom traveled to Tallahassee to lobby on behalf of the Chapter. Your input is vital, and together we continue to make a huge impact on the legislative process.

Please feel free to contact our Chapter Counsel/Lobbyist Chris Nuland at Nulandlaw@aol.com with any questions.

2024 MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS



Christopher Nuland, Dawn Moerings, Elisa Sottile, MD FACP, Representative Angela Nixon, Jason Goldman, MD FACP & Shane Burstiner, DO



Ankush Bansal, MD FACP SFHM, Dawn Moerings, Senator Tracie Davis, Shane Burstiner, DO & Elisa Sottile, MD FACP



Elisa Sottile, MD FACP, Shane Burstiner, DO, Dawn Moerings, Senator Lori Berman, Jason Goldman, MD FACP, Ankush Bansal, MD FACP SFHM & Christopher Nuland

ADVOCATES FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK

Join more than 15,000 colleagues in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn) in advocating for the interests of internal medicine in Washington, D.C. The AIMn program is for ACP members interested in participating in federal advocacy. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine.

Enroll now: <https://www.votervoice.net/ACPONLINE/home>

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College emails or faxes legislative alerts to AIMn members through our Legislative Action Center (LAC). Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress, and ACP staff is always available to provide support and answer legislative questions.

Once enrolled as an Advocate you can use the College's LAC to respond easily to current ACP legislative alerts, identify your federal legislators, monitor important legislation, and e-mail or call your members of Congress.

Legislative Action Center: <https://www.votervoice.net/ACPONLINE/home>

CAPITOL KEY NEWSLETTER

The Capitol Key is an e-newsletter distributed to AIMn members periodically throughout the year. It features the grassroots advocacy activities of AIMn members and news about key advocacy events.

The Capitol Key Newsletter:

<https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/advocates-for-internal-medicine-network/the-capitol-key-newsletter>