



2015

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

Florida
Health Care
Association



Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) is Florida's first and largest advocacy organization for long term care providers and the residents and patients under their care. We are a federation which represents nearly 1,000 members and over 500 centers that provide skilled nursing, post-acute and sub-acute care, short-term rehabilitation, assisted living and other services to the frail elderly and individuals with disabilities in Florida.

Florida
Health Care
Association





FLORIDA HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ITS 2015 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD, WHICH PROVIDES AN INFORMATIVE OVERVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND MEASURES HOW FLORIDA'S SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES RESPONDED TO THE ISSUES THAT IMPACT THE LONG TERM CARE PROFESSION.

The 2015 Florida legislative session made history, ending prematurely with the House and Senate at a stalemate over a new state budget and health care programs. The Legislature had to return to Tallahassee for a special session to pass the 2015-16 state budget, but not before contention among lawmakers took its toll on health care. The debates over Medicaid expansion broke down and not a single health care bill passed out of the special session. Much of the focus was on replacing lost dollars for the hospital Low Income Pool (LIP) program, as well as tax cuts and education.

The standstill over the state budget during the regular session, however, did not affect FHCA's ability to pass legislation that will have a positive impact on long term care. Of particular interest is legislation related to hospital admission status, the state ombudsman program, vaccination of nursing center residents, assisted living facility reform and continuing care communities.

During both the regular and special legislative sessions, protecting Medicaid funding remained a priority for FHCA. More than 60 percent of residents in Florida's skilled nursing centers rely on Medicaid to cover the cost of their long term health care needs, and the cost of care often exceeds Medicaid reimbursements.

The passage of many pro-long term care bills and the preservation of Medicaid funding is attributed to the tremendous work of FHCA's members, staff and lobby team. We want to thank the nearly 500 members who traveled to Tallahassee to advocate for the issues and tell their stories. Lobby Wednesdays is an integral part of our legislative strategy and helps our key messages resonate when legislators prepare to cast their votes. This important grassroots initiative couldn't have been possible without the support of our advocacy partner, Our Florida Promise, as well as our associate members who joined our efforts, speaking side-by-side with caregivers about the important link between Medicaid funding and quality care. Special thanks to Bouchard Insurance and Cotler Healthcare and Development for their sponsorship of Lobby Wednesdays, and to Bouchard Insurance for sponsoring FHCA's weekly Provider Program.

On behalf of the entire team at Florida Health Care Association, thank you for your ongoing support. Your participation is critical to helping us advance our legislative agenda and ensure providers have the resources needed to deliver exceptional care to Florida's long term and post-acute care residents and patients.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Emmett Reed".

J. EMMETT REED, CAE
FHCA/OFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BUDGET

From 2008 through 2012, Florida's skilled nursing centers experienced significant reductions to state Medicaid funding that cannot be bought back by the Nursing Facility Quality Assessment, resulting in an average loss of \$15.46 per Medicaid patient per day (nearly \$377,000 per center annually). Topping the list of FHCA's priorities this session was protecting Medicaid funding, as well as restoring previous year funding cuts.

During the regular legislative session, initial budgets proposed by the Governor and both chambers fully funded Medicaid rates for nursing center care and included the expected inflationary increase. The Legislature, however, failed to pass a budget before the 2015 regular session ended, and lawmakers were called into a special session in June to complete work on the budget as mandated by the Florida Constitution. FHCA was successful in preserving funding in the final 2015-16 state budget, which was approved by Governor Rick Scott. The budget contained no cuts to Medicaid funding for nursing center care, and all estimated inflationary increases were fully funded.

Unfortunately, there was no new money appropriated to restore skilled nursing center funding reductions from prior years. This became an impossible task, given the more than \$400 million in state funding that was redirected to replace lost federal monies from the hospital Low Income Pool (LIP) program.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

FHCA's Government Affairs team was successful in amending the Medicaid conforming bill to change the due date of the Nursing Facility Quality Assessment (NFQA) from the 15th to the 20th day of each month to match the new Medicaid Managed Care payment timeframes. Originally, the NFQA was due approximately five days after Medicaid paid provider claims. With the implementation of Medicaid Reform, long term care managed care plans are required to pay nursing center claims within 10 days after receipt (which frequently occurs after the 15th of the month). This change should ensure providers have sufficient cash flow to pay the NFQA timely and will help alleviate late payment penalties.

MEDICAID PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM

FHCA also successfully advocated for the removal of the proposed study to develop a new Medicaid prospective payment system (PPS) for nursing center services. The Governor's original PPS proposal was designed to reduce the variance in Medicaid payments to different nursing centers for similar residents and to eliminate retrospective rate adjustments. Further, the original House language required that the study develop a transition plan to implement the new PPS in a budget-neutral manner.

FHCA conceptually supports the creation of an appropriately designed PPS methodology that is fully funded. Eliminating the proposed study ensures that FHCA's experts on PPS methodologies play an integral role in the collaboration with the Agency for Health Care Administration when it comes time to develop the PPS model.

VETERANS' NURSING HOMES

Language was eliminated from the budget that would have given the Director of the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs the authority to contract out the management of the State Veterans' nursing homes and assisted living facility. This provision was eliminated for procedural reasons, as legislators decided such a major policy change should be made in statute and not through the budget. Senate and House leaders have offered to work with FHCA next session to pursue a bill.



Members from Gulf Coast Health Care meet with Rep. Cary Pigman, R-Sebring.



NOTIFICATION ABOUT HOSPITAL ADMISSION STATUS

FHCA and its members advocated for legislation to protect seniors from unexpected medical bills by requiring hospitals to properly educate patients about their admission status as they move from a hospital to a skilled nursing center. The measure, **HB 309 by Rep. Shawn Harrison (R-63)/Sen. Don Gaetz (R-1)**, is designed to ensure that patients are aware when a hospital classifies them as an outpatient under "observation," a status that can dramatically alter how Medicare covers the costs.

If a Medicare beneficiary is classified as outpatient under observation status, Medicare will not cover the cost of post-acute rehabilitation care in a skilled nursing center following what otherwise would be a qualifying three-day inpatient hospital stay. Seniors are often unaware the hospital classified them as an outpatient under observation until they are discharged and transferred for rehabilitation at a skilled nursing center. Under the new law, which took effect July 1, patients or their representative must be advised of the status at the time of discharge, and the status must be documented in the patient's discharge papers. Brochures, signs and other forms of communication must also be used to keep the patient informed.

While legislation is needed at the federal level to count time an individual spends under observation status toward the three-day stay requirement, this notification at the state level is an important step in providing transparency and protection for seniors so they can properly plan their care options.



Genesis Health Care representatives outside the House chamber during Lobby Wednesday.

STATE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

After several years of failed attempts, **Sen. Eleanor Sobel (D-33) and Rep. Ken Roberson (R-75)** were successful in passing **SB 7018**, a major rewrite to Florida's Ombudsman statute. The new law, which took effect July 1, will transfer the Ombudsman Council's responsibilities to state representatives of the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman. It revises the operating structure and internal procedures of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, housed in the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), to reflect current practices, maximize operational and program efficiencies and conform to the federal Older Americans Act. The appointment process for three at-large positions to the State Long-Term Care Council is also revised, whereby the appointments are no longer made by the Governor but rather the Secretary of DOEA.

FHCA worked with Sen. Sobel to amend the bill to improve the Gold Seal process, overseen by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care, by clarifying the criteria in the application procedures. Previously, some Gold Seal applications were denied if a center had an unresolved ombudsman complaint. The final legislation eliminates subjectivity by changing an "unresolved complaint" to "only complaints which result in a licensure citation."

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY REFORM

After more than four years of working on the issue, the Florida Legislature passed assisted living facility (ALF) reform with a number of recommendations put forth by FHCA. **HB 1001 by Rep. Larry Ahern (R-66)/Sen. Eleanor Sobel (D-33)**, gives the state broader authority to hold poor performing ALFs accountable while giving seniors and their families greater assurances that they are being cared for in an environment that is safe and respects their ability to age with dignity.

Among other provisions, the bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to significantly enhance the information available about assisted living facilities to the public. It also allows ALF staff to better assist residents with self-administration of medication and requires ALFs to inform new residents, upon admission to the facility, that retaliatory action cannot be taken against a resident for presenting grievances or for exercising any other resident right. The legislation allows nurses to practice within their full scope of licensure in assisted living facilities with limited nursing specialty licenses and gives AHCA broader authority to issue moratoriums and to revoke licenses in certain circumstances.

FHCA appreciates the important role that members of the Florida Center for Assisted Living and Legislative Committees played over the past four years, reviewing and offering input throughout the process. The new law, which took effect July 1, promotes ALF accountability and allows greater services for ALF residents without imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens on providers.

OTHER SUPPORTED BILLS

In addition to FHCA's 2015 legislative priorities, the Association successfully lobbied for other issues of interest to our members.

VACCINATION OF NURSING CENTER RESIDENTS

SB 332 by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-21)/Rep. Mike Miller (R-47) removes a current statutory requirement that skilled nursing centers must vaccinate all eligible new admissions with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination (PPV - a name brand vaccine). It instead allows all new, eligible nursing center admissions to be vaccinated with any pneumococcal vaccination, as long as the vaccine is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Caregivers from Valencia Hills Health & Rehabilitation Center (Lakeland) in Tallahassee during session.



CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITIES

HB 749 by Rep. Charles Van Zant (R-19)/Sen. Thad Altman (R-16) changes the name of Continuing Care Retirement Communities to Continuing Care Communities (CCC) and revamps the contracts between CCC residents and providers.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENTS

HB 269 by Rep. Ray Pilon (R-72)/Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-22) creates the "Right to Try Act," which provides a framework in which an eligible patient with a terminal illness would be able to access experimental drugs, biological products and devices from the manufacturer after phase one clinical trials (meaning the FDA may not have approved the drug). FHCA worked with legislators to delete confusing language recognizing the use of the Physician Order for

Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms in the same manner as Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNROs).

The POLST form is currently accepted in more than 20 states, making this issue likely to arise again next session. Going forward, FHCA will work with all parties to ensure that, as POLST is integrated in Florida, it stays consistent with other forms of advance directives.

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES & PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS

HB 614 by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-55)/SB 614 by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-21) would have expanded ARNP prescription authority to controlled substances and permitted ARNPs in independent practice to treat patients outside the direct supervision of a physician. An amendment to formally exempt nursing centers from the physician reporting requirements in the Controlled Substances Act was proposed by Sen. Rob Bradley (R-7) and Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-21). The bill died, however, preventing the amendment from being offered.

PROPOSALS THAT COULD HAVE HINDERED RESIDENT CARE

While **SB 862 by Sen. Darren Soto (D-14)/HB 1061 by Rep. Dwight Dudley (D-68)** would have required nursing centers to post Gold Seal designations in public access, it also would have mandated those centers on the AHCA Watch List to post a notice in similar areas and notify designated family members of any deficiencies.

FHCA worked with Sen. Soto and Rep. Dudley to help them understand the concerns with this legislation, as we believe the Watch List to be an outdated tool, given the 30-month requirement. Additionally, the Watch List is often confusing to consumers since the federal five-star rating scale more accurately reflects a center's quality measures. In the end, the bill failed to be heard by any committee and died at the end of session.

2015 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD OVERVIEW

Florida Health Care Association’s Legislative Scorecard reports on the Association’s 2015 priorities, which includes legislation related to patient observation status notification (PT STATUS), the State Ombudsman Program (OMB) and assisted living facilities (ALF). Additional comments report on legislators’ sponsorship/co-sponsorship of pro-long term care legislation, their voting record and overall support or non-support related to issues or bill(s) that impact the profession. If no action on an issue/bill was taken, the record is left blank.

LEGISLATION REFERENCE KEY

- SB 332** Relating to Nursing Home Facility Pneumococcal Vaccination Requirements

SB 382 Relating to Assisted Living Facilities

SB 614 Relating to Health Care

SB 654 Relating to State Ombudsman Program

SB 768 Relating to Patient Observation Status Notification

SB 820 Relating to Patient Admission Status Notification

SB 862 Relating to Nursing Home Guides

SB 1052 Relating to Experimental Treatments for Terminal Conditions

SB 1126 Relating to Continuing Care Communities

SB 7018 Relating to State Ombudsman Program
- HB 269** Relating to Experimental Treatments for Terminal Conditions

HB 293 Relating to State Ombudsman Program

HB 309 Relating to Patient Admission Status Notification

HB 411 Relating to Vaccination of Nursing Home Residents

HB 547 Relating to Scope of Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses & Physician Assistants

HB 749 Relating to Continuing Care Communities

HB 1001 Relating to Assisted Living Facilities

HB 1061 Relating to Nursing Home Guides

SENATE

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Abruzzo, Joseph: D – Wellington				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Altman, Thad: R – Cape Canaveral				Sponsored SB 1126; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Bean, Aaron: R – Jacksonville				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Sponsored FHCA priority amendment
Benacquisto, Lizbeth: R – Ft. Myers				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Bradley, Rob: R – Orange Park				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee; Sponsored FHCA priority amendments
Brandes, Jeff: R – St. Petersburg				Sponsored SB 1052; Sponsored FHCA priority amendment; Sponsored Physician Order Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) amendment on SB 1052; Removed Physician Order Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) on SB 1052 after meeting with LTC providers
Braynon, Oscar: D – Miami Gardens				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Bullard, Dwight: D – Cutler Bay				

SENATE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Clemens, Jeff: D – Lake Worth				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Dean, Charles S. "Charlie": R – Inverness				
Detert, Nancy: R – Venice				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Diaz de la Portilla, Miguel: R – Miami				
Evers, Greg: R – Pensacola				
Flores, Anitere: R – Miami				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Gaetz, Don: R – Destin				Sponsored SB 768; Co-sponsored SB 382; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Galvano, Bill: R – Bradenton				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Garcia, Rene: R – Hialeah				Sponsored SB 820; Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Spoke in support of FHCA priority bill in committee; Supported FHCA budget priority issues
Gardiner, Andy: R – Orlando				
Gibson, Audrey: D – Jacksonville				Co-sponsored SB 382; Spoke in support of FHCA priority issue
Grimsley, Denise: R – Sebring				Sponsored SB 614; Sponsored SB 332; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Sponsored FHCA priority amendments
Hays, Alan: R – Umatilla				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Hukill, Dorothy L.: R – Port Orange				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Hutson, Travis: R – Orange Park				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Joyner, Arthenia: D – Tampa				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Spoke in support of FHCA priority bill in committee
Latvala, Jack: R – Clearwater				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee; Placed FHCA priority issue on agenda for discussion
Lee, Tom: R – Brandon				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA budget priority issues; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Legg, John: R – Lutz				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Margolis, Gwen: D – Miami				Co-sponsored SB 1126; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Montford, Bill: D – Quincy				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Negron, Joe: R – Palm City				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Richter, Garrett: R – Naples				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee; Sponsored FHCA priority bill

SENATE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Ring, Jeremy: D – Margate				Sponsored SB 654; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Sachs, Maria Lorts: D – Delray Beach				
Simmons, David: R – Altamonte Springs				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Simpson, Wilton: R – New Port Richey				
Smith, Christopher L.: D – Fort Lauderdale				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Sobel, Eleanor: D – Hollywood				Sponsored SB 382; Sponsored SB 7018; Co-sponsored SB 1052; Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Spoke in support of FHCA priority bill in committee; Sponsored FHCA priority amendments
Soto, Darren: D – Kissimmee				Introduced SB 862; Did not advance SB 862
Stargel, Kelli: R – Lakeland				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Thompson, Geraldine F.: D – Orlando				

HOUSE

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Adkins, Janet: R – Fernandina Beach				Co-sponsored HB 269
Ahern, Larry: R – Seminole				Sponsored HB 1001; Co-sponsored HB 269; Supported FHCA priority amendments
Albritton, Ben: R – Bartow				Co-sponsored HB 269
Antone, Bruce: D – Orlando				
Artiles, Frank: R – Miami				Co-sponsored HB 749; Co-sponsored HB 269
Avila, Bryan: R – Hialeah				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Baxley, Dennis: R – Ocala				
Berman, Lori: D – Boynton Beach				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Beshears, Halsey: R – Apalachicola				

HOUSE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Bileca, Michael: R – Miami				
Boyd, Jim: R – Bradenton				
Bracy, Randolph: D – Ocoee				
Brodeur, Jason T.: R – Sanford				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Broxson, Doug: R – Milton				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Burgess, Danny: R – Zephyrhills				
Burton, Colleen: R – Lakeland				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Caldwell, Matt: R – Lehigh Acres				
Campbell, Daphne: D – Miami Shores				Co-sponsored HB 309; Co-sponsored HB 1001; Co-sponsored HB 547
Clarke-Reed, Gwyndolen: D – Pompano Beach				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Spoke in support FHCA priority bill in committee
Combee, Neil: R – Auburndale				
Corcoran, Richard: R – Lutz				Supported FHCA budget priority issues
Cortes, Robert: R – Maitland				
Cortes, John: D – Kissimmee				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Costello, Fred: R – Port Orange				Co-sponsored HB 309, Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Crisafulli, Steve: R – Merritt Island				
Cruz, Janet: D – Tampa				Spoke in support of FHCA priority bill in committee; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Cummings, W. Travis: R – Orange Park				Co-sponsored HB 749; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Sponsored FHCA budget priorities
Diaz, Jose Felix "Pepi": R – Miami				
Diaz, Manny: R – Hialeah Gardens				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Drake, Brad: R – Marianna				Co-sponsored HB 269
DuBose, Bobby: D – Fort Lauderdale				
Dudley, Dwight: D – St. Petersburg				Introduced HB 1061; Did not advance HB 1061; Co-sponsored HB 269; Co-sponsored HB 1001

HOUSE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Eagle, Dane: R – Cape Coral				Co-sponsored HB 269
Edwards, Katie A.: D – Sunrise				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Eisnaugle, Eric: R – Orlando				Co-sponsored HB 269
Fant, Jay: R – Jacksonville				
Fitzenhagen, Heather: R – Fort Myers				
Fresen, Erik: R – Miami				
Fullwood, Reggie: D – Jacksonville				
Gaetz, Matt: R – Shalimar				
Geller, Joe : D – Dania Beach				
Gonzalez, Julio: R – Venice				Spoke in support of FHCA priority bill on on the floor
Goodson, Tom: R – Titusville				
Grant, James “J.W.”: R – Tampa				
Hager, Bill: R – Boca Raton				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee; Spoke in support FHCA priority bill in committee
Harrell, Gayle: R – Stuart				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Harrison, Shawn: R – Tampa				Sponsored HB 309; Co-sponsored HB 269; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Hill, Walter Bryan “Mike”: R – Pensacola				
Hudson, Matt: R – Naples				Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Supported FHCA budget priority issues
Ingoglia, Blaise: R – Spring Hill				
Ingram, Clay: R – Pensacola				
Jacobs, Kristin: D – Coconut Creek				
Jenne, Evan: D – Hollywood				
Jones, Mia: D – Jacksonville				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Jones, Shevrin D. “Shev”: D – West Park				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee

HOUSE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Kerner, Dave: D – Palm Springs				
La Rosa, Mike: R – Saint Cloud				
Latvala, Chris: R – Clearwater				
Lee, Jr., Larry: D – Fort Pierce				
Magar, MaryLynn: R – Hobe Sound				Co-sponsored HB 269; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Mayfield, Debbie: R – Vero Beach				Co-sponsored HB 269
McBurney, Charles: R – Jacksonville				
McGhee, Kionne L.: D – Cutler Bay				
Metz, Larry: R – Groveland				
Miller, Mike: R – Orlando				Sponsored HB 411
Moraitis, George R.: R – Fort Lauderdale				
Moskowitz, Jared Evan: D – Coral Springs				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Murphy, Amanda: D – New Port Richey				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Narain, Ed: D – Tampa				
Nunez, Jeanette M.: R – Miami				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
O'Toole, Marlene: R – The Villages				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Oliva, Jose: R – Hialeah				
Pafford, Mark: D – West Palm Beach				
Passidomo, Kathleen C.: R – Naples				
Perry, W. Keith: R – Gainesville				
Peters, Kathleen M.: R – St. Petersburg				Co-sponsored HB 1001; Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Pigman, Cary: R – Sebring				Sponsored HB 547; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee;
Pilon, Ray: R – Sarasota				Co-sponsored HB 309; Co-sponsored HB 1001; Sponsored HB 269; Supported removal of Physician Order Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) from HB 269

HOUSE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Plakon, Scott: R – Longwood				
Plasencia, Rene : R – Orlando				
Porter, Elizabeth W.: R – Lake City				
Powell, Bobby: D – West Palm Beach				
Pritchett, Sharon: D – Miramar				Co-sponsored HB 293; Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Raburn, Jake: R – Valrico				
Rader, Kevin: D – Boca Raton				
Raschein, Holly Merrill: R – Key Largo				
Raulerson, Daniel D.: R – Plant City				
Ray, Lake: R – Jacksonville				
Rehwinkel Vasilinda, Michelle: D – Tallahassee				Co-sponsored HB 547
Renner, Paul: R – Palm Coast				
Renuart, Ronald “Doc”: R – Ponte Vedra Beach				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee; Spoke in support FHCA priority bill in committee
Richardson, David: D – Miami Beach				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Roberson , Kenneth L.: R – Port Charlotte				Sponsored HB 293; Placed FHCA priority bill on agenda; Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Rodrigues, Ray Wesley: R – Fort Myers				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Rodriguez, Jose Javier: D – Miami				
Rogers, Hazelle P. “Hazel”: D – Lauderhill				Co-sponsored HB 1001, Supported FHCA priority bill in committee; Spoke in support FHCA priority bills in committee
Rooney, Patrick: R – Palm Beach Gardens				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Rouson, Darryl: D – St. Petersburg				
Santiago, David: R – Deltona				
Slosberg, Irving “Irv”: D – Delray Beach				
Smith, Jimmie T.: R – Inverness				

HOUSE, CONTINUED

NAME: PARTY - AREA	PT STATUS	ALF	OMB	COMMENTS
Spano, Ross: R – Riverview				
Sprowls, Chris: R – Clearwater				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Stafford, Cynthia A.: D – Opa Locka				
Stark, Richard: D – Weston				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Steube, W. Gregory "Greg": R – Sarasota				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Stevenson, Cyndi: R – Saint Augustine				Co-sponsored HB 269
Stone, Charlie: R – Ocala				Sponsored HB 411
Sullivan, Jennifer: R – Eustis				
Taylor, Dwayne: D – Holly Hill				
Tobia, John: R – Melbourne				
Torres, Victor Manuel "Vic": D – Orlando				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Trujillo, Carlos: R – Doral				Supported FHCA priority bill in committee
Trumbull, Jay: R – Panama City				Supported FHCA priority bills in committee
Van Zant, Charles E.: R – Palatka				Sponsored HB 749
Watson, Barbara: D – Miami Gardens				
Watson, Clovis: D – Gainesville				
Williams, Alan B.: D – Tallahassee				
Wood, John: R – Winter Haven				Co-sponsored HB 269
Workman, Ritch: R – Melbourne				
Young, Dana D.: R – Tampa				

FHCA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

Legislators, their staff and interested parties are encouraged to contact the Florida Health Care Association to learn more about the Association's position on issues impacting Florida's long term care provider community and the frail elders they serve.



J. Emmett Reed, CAE
Executive Director



Bob Asztalos
FHCA Chief Lobbyist



Tony Marshall
Senior Director of Reimbursement



Carol Berkowitz
Director of Government Affairs



Melody Selis
Government Affairs Manager



Lee Ann Griffin
Director of Quality & Regulatory Services



Teresa Hamlin
Government Affairs Support Administrator



Kristen Knapp
Director of Communications

FHCA LOBBYISTS

In addition to our internal team, FHCA works with some of the most experienced contract lobbyists in Florida. They include:

TRAVIS BLANTON, JOHNSON & BLANTON, LLC
MELANIE BROWN, JOHNSON & BLANTON, LLC
MATT BRYAN, SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS
ALLISON CARVAJAL, RAMBA CONSULTING GROUP
CARLOS CRUZ, CRUZ AND COMPANY
DAVID DANIEL, SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS
JEFF HARTLEY, SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS
JASMYNE HENDERSON, THE PITTMAN LAW GROUP
BRIAN JOGERST, BH & ASSOCIATES, INC.
JON JOHNSON, JOHNSON & BLANTON, LLC
DOUG MANNHEIMER, BROAD AND CASSEL
DARRICK MCGHEE, JOHNSON & BLANTON, LLC
MICHAEL MCQUONE, FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
JULIE MYERS, SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS
SEAN PITTMAN, THE PITTMAN LAW GROUP
EVAN POWER, STRATEGIC ACCESS GROUP
DAVID RAMBA, RAMBA CONSULTING GROUP
ANDREA REILLY, SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS
MONICA RODRIGUEZ, SMITH & BALLARD

ADVOCACY RESOURCES WWW.FHCA.ORG

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- Legislative Session Priorities and Scorecard
- Issue Briefs and Communication Tools
- Grassroots Guide and Facility Tour Resources
- Press Releases and Social Media Updates
- Email Links to Legislators and more!

