STATUS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE 2013 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolutions that were referred to the Board of Governors are noted with an *

* Recommendation B-1: Amend Chapter VII, Section 2 of the FMA Bylaws. The Board of Governors recommended that the House of Delegates amend Chapter VII, Section 2 of the FMA Bylaws regarding the Medical Student Section to remove the word “allopathic” and add the word “schools” to adequately reflect all medical students in Florida.

House Action: Referred to FMA Bylaws Committee for further review.
Board Referral: FMA Bylaws Committee.
Board Action: February, 2014 – approved; Recommend change to 2014 House via Board Report B – Ref Committee II.

Section 2. MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION
There shall be a special section for medical student members of the Florida Medical Association. The Medical Student Section shall be entitled to one voting delegate in the FMA House of Delegates from each of the FMA recognized chapters of the several Florida allopathic and osteopathic medical schools provided such delegates shall be members of the Medical Student Section and the FMA. The Medical Student Section shall be organized pursuant to bylaws approved by the FMA Board of Governors. The Medical Student Section may adopt resolutions for submission and consideration to the House of Delegates of the FMA.

Resolution 13-101
Opposition to the FSMB Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) Program Adoption in Florida

Status: FMA policy P 285.027; June, 2014 submitted resolution to the AMA.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) opposes any efforts by the Florida Board of Medicine and the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine to require the Federation of State Medical Boards, Inc., (FSMB) “maintenance of licensure (MOL)” program, “maintenance of certification (MOC)”, or ecertification by a specialty medical board as a condition of licensure in the State of Florida, and be it further RESOLVED, That the FMA Delegation to the American Medical Association submit a similar resolution for national consideration.
Resolution 13-105
CME Requirements for Medical Licensure

Status: Ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) Board of Governors study the feasibility of passing legislation which would allow physicians to submit active ABMS or American Osteopathic Association Certification as an alternative pathway for compliance with MD/DO Florida licensure and re-licensure continuing medical education requirements; and be it further RESOLVED, That based upon the findings, the FMA Board of Governors take appropriate action to best serve the FMA membership.

Resolution 13-106
Adoption of ASAM Criteria for Determining Essential Benefits in Substance Use Disorder

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors.
Board Referral: Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
Board Action: February, 2014 - adopted Amended Resolution 13-106 as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association supports requiring Florida managed care organizations adopt to provide comprehensive coverage for the ASAM criteria as the standard for determining essential benefits in the Florida Health Insurance Exchange and as the mandated recommended standards for the assessment and treatment of substance use disorder in Florida.
Status: FMA Policy 295.031.

Resolution 13-107
Specialty Specific Residency Training

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors.
Board Referral: Council on Legislation.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support the concept that board certification in a medical or surgical specialty requires specialty specific residency training for those specialties where this training is in existence and would exclude any legacy physicians who were certified prior to the availability of such training.

Resolution 13-109
Graduated Driver Licensing Systems – Teen Safe Driving

House Action: Adopted.
Status: Included as part of the FMA’s legislative agenda; FMA policy P 10.008.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation to strengthen Florida’s existing graduated driver licensing systems to meet current recommendations by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Resolution 13-111
Child Death Review Committees and Infant Co-Sleeping Deaths

Status: FMA policy P 90.019; FCAAP spearheaded efforts on this issue.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association request that the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families direct the Child Abuse Reporting Hotline to continue to accept calls reporting child deaths while sleeping with adults or other children on the same bed or other surface; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association requests that the Secretary of the Department of Health consider asking the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families to forward all such reports to regional Child Death Review Committees and the state Child Death Review Committee regardless of the presence or absence of other risk factors for unsafe sleep.

Resolution 13-112
Conscience Protection

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors with a report back in 2014.
  Board Referral: Council on Healthy Floridians.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association expand its conscience protection policy to affirm its applicability to physicians’ work outside the realm of the abortion issue.

Resolution 13-201
Florida Medical Association Transparency

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors.
  Board Referral: Executive Committee/FMA Board of Governors.
  In addition the Executive Committee reaffirmed that the FMA operates by parliamentary usage as contained in Sturgis’ Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure which states that committee meetings are closed unless otherwise opened by the committee’s chair.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) open meetings of the Committee on the Future to all FMA members, and be it further RESOLVED, That the minutes of the Committee on the Future be made available to all FMA members, and be it further RESOLVED, That the minutes of all FMA councils and committees, the FMA Board of Governors, and the FMA Executive Committee be made available to all FMA members.

Resolution 13-202
Representation of Employed Physicians

Status: FMA policy P 480.005; ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association study the feasibility of contractually employed physicians forming a union or other appropriate organization.
Resolution 13-203
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

* **House Action:** Referred to the Board of Governors.
  **Board Referral:** Council on Legislation.
  **Board Action:** October, 2013 – **not adopted**.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association update its policies to reflect lawful abiding of the law.

Resolution 13-204
Physician and Medical Staff Member Bill Of Rights

* **House Action:** Referred to the Board of Governors for action.
  **Board Referral:** Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
  **Board Action:** May 2014 - **adopted amended resolution as follows:**

  RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association will support and adopt the amended Medical Staff Member Bill of Rights to include rights number 9 and 10; and be it further as follows: 9) the right of freedom from personal loss or liability for adverse outcomes relating to medical practice based on compassion and good judgment within community standards and 10) the right to fair market and transparent economic competition in our communities between hospitals with or without employee physicians and other allied healthcare professionals and independent physicians and groups in the delivery of healthcare services and compensation based on appropriate community need; and be it further

  RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association will encourage the formation of Medical Staff Advocacy Committees throughout Florida; and be it further

  RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association will support the Medical Staff Advocacy Committees’ role with medical staff issues and communications between Physicians and Hospitals and any other appropriate agency; and be it further

  RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association will report or support such report by a local medical society to the appropriate agency any concern or violation of the Physicians Bill of Rights not resolved by communications between the medical society and hospitals; and be it further

  RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association should publically announce the physician medical staff bill of rights and send this bill of rights to every county medical society in the state and urge those county medical societies to disseminate this bill of rights to their members and the hospitals they serve. send a letter urging every medical staff leadership and hospital administration in Florida to adopt and immediately conform with these basic rights within 30 days.
Resolution 13-302
NICA Accountability

Status: Ongoing.

RESOLVED. That the Florida Medical Association (FMA), in the interest of transparency, provide to its members a link on the FMA website to any annual report required by the Florida Legislature related to NICA.

Resolution 13-304
Acupuncturists Illegally Prescribing Drugs, Injecting Drugs, Performing Surgery

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study and action.
Board Referral: Council on Healthy Floridians.
Board Action: October, 2013 - adopted Substitute Resolution 13-304 including title change to Act in lieu of original Resolution 13-304 and 13-306 as follows:
   New Title: Report Violations of any Practice
   RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association encourage its members to report violations of any practice act (and to do so anonymously or otherwise to help ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida.
Status: FMA policy P 360.005

Resolution 13-306
HCG Diet Outside Scope of Chiropractic Principle and Practice

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study and action.
Board Action: October, 2013 - adopted Substitute Resolution 13-304 including title change to Act in lieu of original Resolution 13-304 and 13-306 as follows:
   New Title: Report Violations of any Practice
   RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association encourage its members to report violations of any practice act (and to do so anonymously or otherwise to help ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida.
Status: FMA policy P 360.005.

Resolution 13-308
Limiting Futile Care at the End of Life

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for report back.
Board Action: October, 2013 - adopted Substitute Resolution 13-308; July, 2014 – Recommend adoption of Sub Res 13-308 to 2014 House via Board Report C - Reference Committee III as follows:
   RESOLVED, That the FMA staff research the Texas Advanced Care Act and study its applicability in Florida;
   RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association Delegation to the AMA submit a resolution to the AMA seeking legislation by the United States Congress that will follow or be like the Texas Advanced Care Act empowering physicians to either not engage in or to suspend futile care at the end of life; and, that those physicians (MDs/DOs) be given immunity from liability when such decisions are made in good faith and within the standard of care with a clear and convincing legal and ethical standard; and be it
further RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association House of Delegates by passing this resolution direct the Legislative Committee of the FMA to pursue as one of its highest priorities similar legislation by the Florida Legislature for the State of Florida

Resolution 13-309
Maintaining Physicians as Team Leaders in Primary Care

Status: FMA policy 450.009.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association maintain its policy that MDs and DOs are the only appropriate leaders in primary care and the patient centered medical home, and be it further RESOLVED, That the FMA reaffirm Policy 450.009 encroachment of non-physicians on the practice of medicine.

Resolution 13-311
Prohibiting the Sale of Tobacco Products in Retail Pharmacies

Status: FMA policy P 470.012; included as part of the FMA’s legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation amending current Pharmacy laws to prohibit the sale of tobacco products (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, or any other preparation), in establishments housing licensed pharmacies.

Resolution 13-312
Raising Cigarette Taxes in the State Of Florida

Status: FMA policy P 470.013; included as part of the FMA’s legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation to further raise the excise tax on cigarettes to at or above $2/pack in order to further tobacco control efforts within the State of Florida.

Resolution 13-313
Limits of Provider Responsibility

House Action: Adopted.
Status: FMA policy P 378.007; included as part of the FMA’s legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association seek legislation which automatically terminates the active provider-patient relationship 3 years from the date of the last provision of care; and further stating that the provider is not responsible for the provision of services to any patient that no longer has an active relationship with their provider.
Resolution 13-314
Unlicensed Health Care Clinics That Accept Only “Cash”

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors.
  Board Referral: Council on Legislation.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation to substitute the words “remuneration, either directly from the patient, in cash or in kind, or through a third party, such as an insurance company” for the word "reimbursement", effectively making clinics that do not receive insurance reimbursement also required to register with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) as a Health Care Clinic, thereby protecting the public from unlicensed activity.

Resolution 13-315
Board of Medicine Governance of Non-Physician Health Care Professionals

Status: FMA policy P 400.010.

RESOLVED, In the event that legislation is introduced in Florida to allow for non-MD/DO health professionals to practice independently, the Florida Medical Association will seek legislation placing any rights or privileges of all non-physician health care professionals engaged in the independent, unsupervised, or indirectly supervised delivery of health care under the governance of the Board of Medicine or the Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Resolution 13-316
Ensuring Medicaid Payment Rate Increase

Status: Ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation and help guide discussions in the 2014 legislative session between the Governor, the Senate, and the House to ensure that Medicaid payment rates, including Title XIX, Title XXI (MediKids and Healthy Kids), and Children’s Medical Services, are increased to not less than Medicare levels in 2015 and beyond for all Florida physicians.

Resolution 13-317
Ensuring Medicare Rates for all Physicians

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors.
  Board Referral: Council on Legislation.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association seek investigate the feasibility of legislation directing that commercial insurance companies must pay all physicians for professional services rendered at not less than 2009 Medicare rates adjusted annually at an increase of not less than 90% of the most recently published Medical Price Index (MPI) for the same or similar services and that failure to meet this payment adjustment shall be considered defacto waiver of any prior contractual prohibition of balance billing to the patient and report back at the February 2014 Board of Governors meeting.
Resolution 13-318
Payment for Medicaid HMO Newborn Services

Status: FMA policy P 385.012; included in the FMA’s legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That our Florida Medical Association support legislation in 2014 that would ensure physician payments for newborn care in the infant’s first 30 days of life to physicians by all Florida licensed Medicaid HMO’s contracting with the Agency for Health Care Administration, irrespective of the physician’s contracting status with the Medicaid HMO.

Resolution 13-320
Ensuring the Availability of Medical Professional Services and the Safety of Office Based Surgery

Status: FMA policy P 260.038; included in FMA legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association support legislation requiring all insurance companies to recognize that higher costs exist for professional medical services performed in an office and further to negotiate in good faith with any provider of office based services to contract higher levels of payment to provide those services in the office.

Resolution 13-321
Health Care Insurance Company Elimination of Methods for Review and Appeal of Payment Denial (Including Second and Third Level Reviews) as a Method to Attempt to Circumvent Florida Prompt Pay Law

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study and action.
Board Referral: Council on Legislation
Board Action: October, 2013 - adopted Substitute Resolution 13-321 in lieu of original as follows:
RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association staff, councils or the appropriate committee study model legislation from other states and provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) relating to appeals for reviews of payment denial, as well as data from claims within Florida, to determine whether any changes to Florida law are needed to protect physicians and patients, with a report back to the Board of Governors by February 2014.
Status: Ongoing.

Resolution 13-322
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Status: FMA policy P 450.028; included in the FMA’s legislative agenda.

RESOLVED, That due to the extreme likelihood that patients treated by a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) will be misled into thinking that their “doctor” is a physician, the Board of Governors of the Florida Medical Association (FMA) direct staff to introduce legislation mandating that all persons other than M.D.s, D.O.s, dentists and chiropractors holding themselves out as “doctors” wear a conspicuous name tag or signage which has letters no smaller than 4mm per letter and which fully spells out the exact name of their formal degree (Doctor of Nursing Practice, etc.) and that they further be required to orally state that they are not physicians with each and every encounter.
Resolution 13-324
Compound Medications: Support for Laws Allowing “Office Use”

* House Action: Referred to the Board for study and action.
Board Referral: Council on Legislation
Status: Ongoing.

RESOLVED That the Florida Medical Association House of Delegates direct its Council on Legislation to monitor legislation moving through the US Congress and the Florida legislature, lobbying for support of legislation that ensures patient safety but does not unduly burden physicians and patients by outlawing office use compounding.

Resolution 13-401
New Rules for Emergency Room Care

Status: FMA Policy P 155.005; submitted a resolution at 2013 AMA Interim Meeting. This resolution was discussed with numerous states and specialties. It became clear to the delegation that there was inadequate information contained in this resolution and the intent was also unclear as most Emergency physicians have been working on ED Throughput issues for years. In fact, these regulations are supported by the American College of Emergency Physicians. It also became clear that hospitals more than physicians have issues with this particular Medicare policy. It was felt by the delegation that bringing this back to the FMA for clarification and discussion would be the best next step for this topic.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association oppose rules for hospitals and doctors regarding time lines for care in the emergency department until adequate evidence-based proof of such change will improve patient care; and further, through its delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA), request the AMA do the same.

Resolution 13-402
Support FFS as the Most Appropriate Way to Reimburse Physicians

Status: FMA policy P 380.022; submitted a resolution at 2013 AMA Interim Meeting. The AMA has clear policy in support of the resolution and it was placed on the reaffirmation consent calendar.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association affirms that fee for services rendered to patients is a standard, valid, and ethical practice; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association will actively oppose any Florida legislation which seeks to limit physicians’ ability to contract for services with patients, or which coerces a physician to be a party to a contract which the physician has not agreed to; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association delegation will promulgate and submit a resolution to the American Medical Association House of Delegates which directs the AMA to similarly affirm fee for service as a standard of business in the medical profession, and to vigorously oppose legislation which limits or seeks to limit the protection under law for physicians to contract for services with patients, or which attempts to make a physician a party to a contract to which the physician has made no agreement; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association reaffirms its commitment to the Patient Empowerment Act brought forth by Representative Tom Price, M.D., and calls on the AMA to similarly re-affirm its commitment to support this legislation.
Resolution 13-403
Suspend HCAHPS Rating System

House Action: Adopted.
Status: FMA policy P80.006; a resolution was filed at the 2013 AMA Interim Meeting. This resolution was originally authored by the FMA and was eventually submitted through another channel resolving that the AMA will show integrity and stand on our principles that have been developed by the House of Delegates over the past decade and that as alternative payment models emerge will continue to advocate for private contracting. The reality is that the AMA is one of many voices that Congress hears. Ultimately, the decision is up to Congress with input from many groups.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association demand that CMS suspend HCAHPS rating until a valid scoring system can be adopted, and further submit a resolution to the American Medical Association to do the same.

Resolution 13-404
Medicaid Reform HMO/PSN Statewide Expansion and Medicaid Eligibility Expansion through Federal funding

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study.
Board Referral: Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
Board Action: Referred Amended Resolution to the Council on Legislation; not adopted; Recommend not adopt to 2014 House via Board Report C – Reference Committee III.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) will publicly support the Medicaid eligibility expansion and federal support and furthermore request and urge that the State of Florida accepts those provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act accepting federal dollar support for the Medicaid program and higher physician reimbursement; and be it further RESOLVED, That the FMA will publicly support any statewide expansion of Medicaid into managed care only if such programs safeguard patient access to care while increasing all primary care physicians Medicaid rate payments to Medicare rates such as internal and family medicine, pediatricians and obstetrician and gynecologists; and furthermore support such rates for specialists in order to maintain sufficient care networks in the state regions of reform; and be it further RESOLVED, That the FMA will publicly support any Medicaid Reform statewide only if it addresses all of its physician’s concerns; and be it further RESOLVED, That the FMA will send a letter to the State of Florida, the Governor and CMS within one month specifically publishing and asking for these resolutions and this position, requesting the state to expand Medicaid statewide only with safeguards and higher physician reimbursements, and to accept the Federal Medicaid eligibility expansion and federal funds, and furthermore, ask for a 2013 special legislative session.

Resolution 13-405
Eliminate Insurance Companies’ Colonoscopy Bait & Switch

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study with a report back to the House in 2014.
Board Referral: Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
Board Action: February, 2014- not adopted; Recommend not adopt to 2014 House via Board Report D – Reference Committee IV.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) bring to the attention of the Florida Insurance Commissioner the unethical behavior of changing the colonoscopy procedure code by the insurance companies for the purpose of cost-shifting in our state and request that this practice of
changing the procedure code be abolished and those companies who partake in this behavior be severely penalized; and be if further RESOLVED, That the FMA submit a resolution to the American Medical Association (AMA) identifying this practice of changing the colonoscopy procedure code by insurance companies, for the purpose of cost-shifting, in our nation and mandate that it be abolished and those companies who partake in this behavior be severely penalized.

Resolution 13-406
Lung Cancer Screening to be Considered Standard of Care

Status: FMA policy P 70.008; ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) bring to the attention of the Florida Insurance Commissioner the importance of Lung Cancer Screening and recommend coverage of lung cancer screening for high risk patients by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurers be required as the key to ensuring that everyone at risk has a fair and equitable opportunity to survive a lung cancer diagnosis; and further, through its delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) request the AMA do the same.

Resolution 13-407
Medicaid Expansion

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study.
  Board Referral: Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
  Board Action: February 2014 - not adopted; Recommend not adopt to 2014 House via Board Report D – Reference Committee IV.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association demonstrate substantial support for the Medicaid expansion and urge the Governor, Senate, and House to consider this issue of prime importance.

Resolution 13-408
Study to Assess Increased Medicaid Payment Rates and Access to Care

House Action: Adopted.
Status: FMA policy 385.013; ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association ensure through effective advocacy or other means that a study is performed in 2013 and again in 2014, via a government agency, university, qualified consultant, or private company to quantitatively assess the presumed effect of the Medicaid payment increase facilitating access to care for Floridians in order to guide future advocacy and health and economic policy decisions related to promotion of health and medical access in the State of Florida.

Resolution 13-409
Improving Insurance Accountability to Physician Offices

* House Action: Referred to the Board of Governors for study and report back to the House of Delegates in 2014.
  Board Referral: Council on Medical Services and Health Care Delivery Innovation.
  Board Action: February 2014, referred to the Council on Legislation; May 2014 – not adopted; Recommend not adopt to 2014 House via Board Report C Reference Committee III.

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association (FMA) work proactively in advocacy with the
Office of Insurance Regulation and the major commercial insurance companies in Florida to ensure that each physician office and/or physician group always have a primary assigned individual(s) as their insurance representative(s) or ombudsperson to the extent possible and reasonable; and be it further RESOLVED, That our FMA work with the Office of Insurance Regulation and the major commercial insurance companies to establish a "physician-insurance protocol" delineating appropriate insurance response expectations and time of response depending on the nature of the physician inquiry, including billing, referrals, medication denials, laboratory and radiological testing denials, and contracting; and be it further RESOLVED, That our FMA work with the Office of Insurance Regulation and the major commercial insurance companies to help ensure that this "physician-insurance protocol" is amended to be an integral part of all insurance contracts and that a significant monetary penalty be levied against the insurer if there is flagrant disregard or breach of the protocol.

Resolution 13-410

Health Delivery Evaluation Criteria Used by Medicaid and Private Insurance Companies/Accountable Care Organizations Must Be Current and Recognized by National

House Action: Adopted.
Status: FMA policy P 260.039; ongoing.

RESOLVED, That the FMA will promote administrative corrections with Florida Medicaid and insurance regulatory organizations to mandate the yearly review of criteria used to evaluate health care providers. Criteria can be reviewed more frequently if compelling information is discovered. Guidelines must use currently accepted recommendations by national health care associations including but not limited to the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF), American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), American Associations of Family Physicians, (AAFP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE), American College Physicians (ACP).