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**Florida Medical Association  
Update**

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Vice President, FMA  
Treasurer-Designate, FMA PAC

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**I have nothing to disclose; no financial  
relationships with commercial interest.**

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**Preserving the  
Patient/Physician  
Relationship**

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Direct Primary Care – Less Paperwork, More Care

DPC is an alternative to the traditional fee-for-service model in which patients are charged a simple, affordable flat monthly fee for comprehensive coverage of all primary care services. The FMA is pushing this legislation and it's moving in both the House and Senate.



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## Right Medicine, Right Time

Each year, thousands of Floridians are subjected to "fail first" protocols, whereby insurance companies impose their own treatment decisions ahead of treating physicians' medical judgment. We are seeking legislation to eliminate these protocols that delay care.



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## Prior Authorization

One of the biggest hassles that physicians and patients deal with every day is obtaining prior authorizations from insurance companies. The FMA is seeking legislation requiring a 72-hour response time for all prior authorizations.



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## Preserving the Economic Stability of Physicians

Underpayment, lack of payment, and retroactive denials by health plans jeopardize the economic viability of physicians and their medical practices, which undermines access to care. We are supporting legislation that prevents retroactive denials.



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## Eliminating Unnecessary Administrative & Regulatory Requirements

The FMA is actively seeking legislation to eliminate administrative burdens such as Maintenance of Certification requirements that take time away from delivering patient care.



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## Use Technology to Increase Access to Care

The FMA supports the use of telemedicine and telehealth to expand access to care. However, in order to ensure that these services become more widely available, legislation is needed to provide a payment mechanism.



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The FMA PAC is the political arm of the FMA.

- **MISSION:** elect pro-medicine candidates into the Florida Legislature.
- **Contributing to the FMA PAC is the single most powerful thing you can do for the medical profession in Florida.**



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**Election Review and Preview**

- **Due to redistricting, 2016 was a very contentious election, we now have 20 new senators, and 46 new house members; a very different looking legislature.**
- **2018 will be another critical year for the house of medicine, as the Governor and the entire cabinet is open due to term limits. Along with these open offices, we will see more legislative seats open as some of these members will look to run statewide.**

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**94%** of FMA PAC endorsed candidates won their elections in 2016.

**95%** of FMA PAC endorsed candidates won their elections in 2014.

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### 2016 Legislative Session – Looking back

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### Catastrophic Fund Exemption For Medical Malpractice

- The exemption for medical malpractice premiums was set to expire in 2016.
- The FMA was successful in extending the exemption to 2019.
- Will prevent premium assessments of up to 10% in the event of a hurricane.

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### Prior Authorization

- This legislation requires health insurers who do not have an electronic prior authorization process to use a uniform, two-page prior authorization form.
- Streamlines the current lengthy, complicated process for prior authorizations.

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**What would your life look like without the FMA working for you?**

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• **Assignment of benefits would disappear, and checks that should have gone to you from the insurance companies would be going to patients.**



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• **Expert witness certificates would no longer be issued, and any physician in any specialty would be able to testify against you in a lawsuit. So an ophthalmologist would be able to tell a general surgeon how to practice medicine.**



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- **The lookback period for insurance companies to recoup payments would be 30 months instead of 12 months.**



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- **You would be fingerprinted every two years, as some legislators must think that our fingerprints change over time.**



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- **The Department of Health would be able to suspend or limit your license based solely on suspicion of a crime.**

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**Thank you!**

**Without broad physician support  
such as yours, we couldn't do what  
we do.**

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