



FAFP Committee Week Update February 23, 2007

Well it's over, the final committee week prior to the Legislative Session's commencement on March 6th. This week, there were almost as many fundraising events as there were committee meetings. Legislators are prohibited from raising dollars during the Legislative Session, so many of them try to raise funds immediately prior to its start.

On the policy front, the various health care committees met this week to discuss many issues – free standing emergency rooms, e-prescribing, low-income pool funding, tobacco education funding, nursing shortage issues and low birth weight baby mortality rates.

Several bills were heard in committee as well, towards all of which FAFP remains neutral towards. We are actively watching for amendments that broaden scope of practice. The bills included SB 281 allowing physician assistants who meet specified criteria to be certified as paramedics; SB 469 allowing ARNPs and PAs to obtain informed consent when supervised by a physician; and SB 248 creating a new licensure category for clinical nurse specialist.

The Legislative Session runs March 6 through May 4. If you know your legislators personally, could you please let us know? As a Family Medicine Ambassador, we may call upon you occasionally to contact your member of the Florida House of Representatives or the Florida Senate regarding issues of importance to Family Medicine and the FAFP. Please contact Chris Fisher, FAFP Director of Public Affairs, at cpf1219@aol.com. Many thanks!

We will continue to keep you posted as the Session begins!