

## Legislative Update Week of January 11, 2010

By Anna Small

### Legislative Counsel

This week was the first committee week of the New Year. There was little movement on actual bills and some health care committees did not even meet. Overall there is deep concern regarding the state of the budget, which has a projected 3 billion dollar deficit of which 1.8 billion is a Medicaid.

**Safe Staffing– SB 114/ HB 377 by Senator Dave Aronberg and Representative Ron Brisé.** This bill requires acute care centers to have collaborative councils with participation of direct patient care RNs. The councils will develop a staffing plan for each individual patient care unit based on the ANA principals on staffing. There was no movement on this bill during the week.

**Controlled Substance Prescribing by ARNPs– SB 188/ HB 677 by Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Juan Carlos Zapata.** The bill has now been filed in both the House and Senate, so the next challenge is to get it placed on the agenda of the committees to which it has been referred. We understand that Representative Nick Thompson, Chair of Health Policy Regulation Committee has decided not to hear any scope of practice bills. We need your help to change his mind. Please contact his office today to tell him how important it is for him to place HB 677 on the agenda in his committee. If you live in his district, be sure to tell him that too.

**Representative Nick Thompson**

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Don't be afraid to contact Representative Thompson more than once, or through more than one method. If you live in his district, ask for an appointment when he is in the district so you can express your concerns to him personally.

**Nursing education bill by Representative Denise Grimsley, RN.**

This bill has not yet been filed and House staff is still working to draft language for the bill. We have been told that the bill will be a "glitch" bill and will clarify some issues that have arisen from last year's HB 1209. The bill will also require accreditation by NLN-AC and CCNE of all RN level education program within 5 to 7 years.

We understand that Representative Grimsley intends that once a school attains accreditation, and maintains it, it will be exempt from most of the jurisdiction of the Board of Nursing. The Florida Nurses Association, Florida Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the Florida Council of Nurse Educators and Administrators all support the requirement for accreditation for RN level programs.

Florida Nurses Association District 1 is hosting a fundraiser for Representative Greg Evers who is running for Senate District 2. Representative Evers is very supportive of all nursing issues. The fundraiser will be held in Pensacola on January 28, 2010. Please contact FNA Headquarters or District leadership for more information. If you live in the district, you should have already received an email flyer with detailed information.

You should have also received emails updating you on relief efforts in Haiti's humanitarian crisis. We have reached out to our friends in the legislature who are Haitian American as well as a variety of charitable relief and recovery organization. Please stay tuned to your emails as more information on how you can help becomes available.

The week of January 18, 2010 will be another committee week. Watch for email and video updates at the end of next week.

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