

FNPN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 14, 2005

During the Legislative Session, I will endeavor to keep you informed on our issues and other issues affecting the practice. Our goal is to pass legislation permitting the Nurse Practitioner to administer examinations to persons seeking employment as firemen, those applying for handicapped parking privileges, and persons seeking authority to carry firearms when working as security guards. I am pleased to report that all of these bills have either been filed and assigned a bill number or have been filed and are working their way through the process and should be assigned a number soon.

The handicapped parking bill is House Bill 63 and was introduced by Representative David Simmons from Altamonte Springs. If you know him or want to get to know him, give him a call and thank him for his help. I know he will appreciate hearing from you. His district telephone number is (407) 262-7520 and his Tallahassee telephone number is (850) 488-2331. His e-mail address is David.Simmons@myfloridahouse.gov.

The remaining two bills will be introduced by Representative Don Brown from DeFuniak Springs. His district telephone number is (850) 892-8431 and his Tallahassee telephone number is (850) 488-4726. His e-mail address is Donald.Brown@myfloridahouse.gov. Those of you, who know him or want to get to know him, please call and let him know how very much you appreciate his assistance.

We are awaiting the filing of the prescribing bill, and as soon as we learn of its status, we will be in touch. As the Session approaches, we will have a better idea of which committees will consider the bills, and we will arrange for contacts with the members of the pertinent committees at that time. Remember the saying that "all politics is local." The members are influenced by the "folks back home." We in Tallahassee can set the stage and even create the script, but your involvement makes the "show go on." We will be calling on all of you for assistance.

Senator Saunders has introduced Senate Bill 100, which would repeal the CE Broker legislation being implemented by the Department of Health. The jury's still out on what will happen to that effort. There are several large professional associations supporting the repeal, and it could very well happen. No matter what happens to the present program, an alternate system will be adopted. With all the concessions supporters of the CE Broker system have made, I wonder if all the fuss is warranted.

Senate Bill 544 relating to the confidentiality privilege between psychotherapists and their patients would redefine that term to include Nurse Practitioners engaged in that practice. While we did not seek the introduction of this bill as part of our affirmative legislative program, it should be adopted by us, and we should provide our support to its sponsor, Senator Rod Smith, from Gainesville. His district telephone number is (352) 375-3555. His Tallahassee telephone number is (850) 487-5020. His e-mail address is smith.rod.web@flsenate.gov.

This is the first of many legislative reports to advise you of what is happening in Tallahassee.

Your Legislative Lobbying Team,

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