



Issue Spotlight: Better Healthcare Access

We are committed to increasing access to affordable health care by applying free market principles and practices. Our goal is to encourage and support competition by eliminating unnecessary regulation and empowering Floridians with more information and more options.

Below are brief descriptions of bills that offer opportunities to advance our mission to increase access to affordable and quality health care. Please refer to bill texts and analyses for additional information on what each bill does and does not do.

Testing for and Treatment of Influenza and Streptococcus - HB 111, Rep. Plasencia & Rep. Sirois

- HB 111 authorizes pharmacists to test for and treat flu and strep infections within the framework of an established written protocol with a physician licensed in this state. To provide such services, a pharmacist must meet certain criteria, including education, proof of liability insurance, and employer approval. The bill also establishes standards of practice for pharmacists providing these services.
- The bill requires a supervising physician to review the actions taken by a pharmacist. The bill also prohibits any person from interfering with a physician's professional decision of whether to enter into a protocol to supervise a pharmacist to provide testing for and the treatment of flu and strep.
- Authorizing pharmacists to test and treat flu and strep can shorten wait times by widening the pool of health care practitioners that Floridians can see for illnesses.

Electronic Prescribing - HB 831, Rep. Mariano

- HB 831 requires that all prescriptions be electronically transmitted by January 1, 2020.
- Electronic prescribing will prevent fraud, reduce abuse, and create an effective mode of access for Floridians to receive their healthcare.

Physician Referrals - HB 863, Rep. Brannan

- HB 863 prohibits a health care provider from referring patients to any hospital in which the health care provider holds an investment interest. This bill eliminates the special exception in the law for hospitals and provides that an individual or entity participating in such referrals may now also be subject to the anti-kickback and patient brokering statutes.
- The bill also requires health care providers to give a written notice to a patient any time the health care provider refers a patient to a provider not covered by the patient's insurance.
- Closing the physician referral loophole ensures that physician recommendations are based on the patients' best interest and not providers' financial benefit.