

2021 Advocacy Agenda

✓ Public Policy & Legislative Priorities



Mission to Care. Vision to Lead.

The Florida Hospital Association and our members are focused on securing and sustaining the highest-performing health care delivery system in the country, producing the best outcomes and supporting the highest level of health and well-being for all Floridians.

— Guiding Principles —

This document provides a framework to guide our advocacy throughout 2021 (and beyond) and our decision making to support or oppose particular legislation. The broad priorities outlined below represent our short- and long-term objectives to strengthen the health care system.



Coverage is key to timely access to health care.



Efforts must focus on growing our health care workforce to meet the needs of patients and communities.



Consistent commitment to covering efficient cost of care and to critical healthcare investments is essential to a robust, comprehensive and innovative health care system.



Regulatory relief should be pursued to reduce unnecessary and burdensome processes that detract from patient care focus and unnecessary hurdles that stall timely innovation and critical flexibility.

Federal Policy Priorities

Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

- Extend and increase the temporary enhanced federal Medicaid matching rate to support states with increased Medicaid enrollment and significant budget challenges due to COVID-19.

COVID Financial Relief

- Advocate for the greatest flexibility for hospitals to be able to cover increased costs and lost revenue from the pandemic.



- Increase federal funding for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and incorporate competition and innovation into the awarding of HPP funds.

Medicaid Waiver Flexibility

- Support creative options that are state driven to expand coverage to address state specific challenges.

Telehealth

- Expand telehealth flexibilities provided during the Public Health Emergency and provide permanent Medicare coverage for telehealth.

Behavioral Health

- Support increased behavioral health funding to stem the tide of unnecessary ED visits.
- Support legislation that aligns Florida law with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) including the alignment of authorization and documentation requirements, and require all state health agencies, health plans and commercial insurance to report annually on the implementation of the parity act in Florida.

Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments

- Permanently repeal the Medicaid DSH cuts and restructure the program to eliminate the inequitable treatment of Florida’s hospitals.

340B Program

- Protect the program from further reductions and regulatory changes that undermine the mission of the 340B program.

Graduate Medical Education

- Expand program to respond to increasing workforce shortages.

Medicare

- Extend the 2% sequestration relief through the duration of the Public Health Emergency.
- Promote value-based care models.
- Streamline prior authorization processes and increase oversight of Medicare Advantage plans.

Hospital Ratings

- Support changes to the CMS Star Ratings program to simplify, improve the fairness and increase transparency in the methodology used to calculate the ratings.

CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS 2021



The Florida congressional delegation is diverse with 27 districts, and few restricted to rural- or urban-only areas.



Party affiliation in Florida’s congressional delegation leans Republican.

17 REPUBLICANS

10 DEMOCRATS



State Policy Priorities

Public Health & Emergency Preparedness

- Prevent unnecessary litigation from COVID-19 by passing comprehensive liability reform to provide immunity for health care providers, including caps on non-economic damages and allowing courts to limit attorneys' contingency fees.
- Post-acute care issues: evaluate lessons learned in supporting timely transitions to post-acute care settings.
- Other items identified through COVID Mid-point Assessment.

Medicaid Coverage and Reimbursement

- Coverage is key to timely access to care. Identify and advance opportunities to support expanded access to coverage including through Medicaid eligibility waivers.
- Ensure the continuation of essential health care services for low-income children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled by maintaining adequate state funding for the Medicaid program.
- Promote a standardized, integrated approach to the development of Medicaid policy and payment models to reduce readmissions and non-emergent use of the emergency department, increase access and ensure payor accountability.
- Directed Payment Program: strongly consider options to reduce Medicaid shortfall through efforts to increase federal Medicaid funds to increase hospital Medicaid reimbursement rates.



Innovation and Excellence

- Ensure a level playing field in telehealth for Florida physicians by joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- Develop a rational and equitable approach to telehealth reimbursement policy that provides flexibility to incentivize continued innovation.
- Align payment policy with quality and outcome measures to incentivize improved patient outcomes and promote safe patient care.
- Promote access and integration of critical patient care information and data across all health care settings to allow for better care coordination across the health care continuum.

Behavioral Health

- Increase access to behavioral health services to address service delivery gaps in treatment options.
- Provide robust oversight of Medicaid Managed Care plans to ensure that they reimburse behavioral health providers fairly and reduce unnecessary denials.

- Implement policies to better integrate and coordinate behavioral health services with physical health services through the support of the behavioral health home model.
- Support payments and policies that provide comprehensive services and supports for moms and babies to improve outcomes and reduce neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Reduce Administrative Burden

- Support repealing, or at a minimum reducing, the burdensome property tax exemption reporting requirements for nonprofit hospitals.

Personal Injury Protection

- Ensure changes to Florida's personal injury protection program include mandatory bodily injury coverage and a mandatory medical payment policy.

Workers' Compensation

- Implement policies to address administrative efficiencies in the workers' compensation system and lower operational costs

Meaningful Health Care Transparency

- Support improved consumer access to health care price and quality information that is evidence-based and meaningful to support consumer decision-making by providing information on cost, quality, and outcomes.

Workforce Violence

- Extending enhanced workplace violence protections for health care providers beyond the Emergency Department and include all other employees of the hospital regardless of whether they are providing direct care.

Workforce Development

- Support efforts to secure additional resources for workforce development for nurses respiratory therapists, and other specialized care providers.



LEGISLATIVE FOCUS 2021



STATE SENATE

Key Committees

- **Appropriations Committee**
Chair: Sen. Kelli Stargel
- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**
Chair: Senator Aaron Bean
- **Committee on Health Policy**
Chair: Sen. Manny Diaz, Jr.
- **Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response**
Chair: Sen. Danny Burgess



STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Key Committees

- **House Appropriations**
Chair: Rep. Jay Trumbull
- **Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee**
Chair: Rep. Bryan Avila
- **House Commerce Committee**
Chair: Rep. Blaise Ingoglia
- **Health & Human Services**
Chair: Rep. Colleen Burton
- **Finance & Facilities Subcommittee**
Chair: Rep. Clay Yarborough
- **Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee**
Chair: Rep. Thad Altman
- **Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee**
Chair: Rep. Thomas J. Leek