

Florida Renal Association

Kidney Day Legislative Issues for 2024

- **More Transplants = More Lives** – The Florida Renal Association (FRA) is working with “More Transplants – More Lives” to ensure as many lifesaving organ donations occur in Florida as possible. We want to encourage living organ donations as well as increasing registrations of organ donors.
 - **SUPPORT HB 677 by Rep. Berfield and SB 646 By Sen. Harrell**– An act relating to organ donation. It grants state employees administrative leave for living organ donation; creates corporate tax credits for employee organ donation expenses; expands organ donation registry education; and clarifies an insurance preexisting condition provision may not exclude living organ donors.
 - **SUPPORT HB 1113 by Rep. Killebrew and SB 1164 by Sen. Burton**– Allows the use of emergency lights and sirens for vehicles used to transport organs and surgical teams for transplants.
- **Expanded Use of Home Modalities for Dialysis Treatments** – The FRA strongly supports dialysis treatments administered at home (*Peritoneal Dialysis and/or Home Hemodialysis*) in lieu of in-clinic dialysis. The FRA hosts a yearly educational webinar with the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA), as directed by **budget proviso language**, for the Medicaid Managed Care plans educating them on the cost savings and benefits to the patients of home dialysis. If a patient starts directly on home modalities, they are immediately eligible for Medicare, thereby creating cost avoidance for the state Medicaid program.
- **Improved / Accountable Transportation Options** - Consistent and timely transportation is the **number one complaint** with our dialysis patients. Most in-clinic dialysis patients require three treatments a week that can be 4 hours in length. Patients often may wait additional hours before/after treatment and miss scheduled appointments due to frequent transportation issues. Transportation barriers are another reason to encourage home dialysis.
- **Food is Medicine** – When end-stage renal disease (ESRD) leads to dialysis treatments, dietitians/nutritionists are part of the care team to help overhaul your diet. Improper nutrition leads directly to poorer outcomes.
 - **SUPPORT HB 253 by Rep. Caruso and SB 488 by Sen. Polsky**– Medicaid Coverage for Prescribed Foods for Disease Treatment and Prevention; Requires AHCA to establish Food Is Medicine Pilot Program to provide Medicaid coverage for purchases & deliveries of prescribed health-promoting foods; requires AHCA, in conjunction with DOH, to seek federal approval & waivers for pilot program

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- **Healthcare Practitioner Workforce** – The FRA supports the expansion of the healthcare practitioner workforce in Florida. We were one of the first associations to support the passage of the Florida nursing licensure compact. Dialysis patients depend on physicians, nurses, social workers, and dietitians to navigate the complicated process of kidney failure.
 - **SUPPORT HB 1549 by Rep. Grant and SB 7016/7018 by Health Policy**
The FRA supports the “Live Healthy” proposals to grow Florida’s healthcare workforce through additional residency slots, educational loan forgiveness and removing barriers of licensure.
 - **SUPPORT HB 99 by Rep. Hunschofsky and SB 68 by Sen. Rodriguez**
Social Work Licensure Compact; specifying requirements for state participation in the compact; requiring member states to designate the categories of social work licensure which are eligible for issuance of a multistate license in such states; establishing the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission; etc.

OTHER ISSUES:

- **Third Party Payer of Insurance Premiums** – The FRA supports the continuation of third-party payments of insurance premiums for those who qualify for such assistance programs. Any disruption of these programs could increase the enrollment of Medicaid coverage for ESRD services.
- **Medi-Gap** – Florida was a leader in the nation with passage of a Medi-Gap plan that allows coverage for the disabled and ESRD population under age 65. There are now 16 other states who have copied our program with more being suggested. We support the continuation of Medi-Gap.
- **Medicaid Program Fee Increase** – The FRC supports a Medicaid program that provides Medicaid coverage for those with ESRD who do not qualify for Medicare or commercial insurance. The MMA plans must pay the minimum established by AHCA, but FRA supports raising reimbursements to equal Medicare rates.
- **Emergency transfers (ambulances) directly to dialysis facility under declared emergencies IF 911 is dialed.**