

FRA Legislative meeting summary for 10/03/2025

The Florida Renal Association's (FRA) Legislative Committee met for the ninth time in 2025 on Friday October 3rd. Below is a summary of the meeting led by FRA Lobbyist Ron Watson, who was attending the Renal Professional Forum (RPF) meeting on behalf of the FRA in beautiful Jensen Beach.

2026 Legislative Issues Input Requested

The legislative committee is **asking for input** for our 2026 legislative issues. The FRA wants on the ground/local input as to what needs to change in Tallahassee to make for the benefit of our patients. We will focus on transplants, transportation, social workers licensure compact, prescription drugs, food is medicine and possibly your idea(s)! Please help us develop the issues we will be fighting for in Tallahassee!

Kidney Day 2026 is Feb 8th-10th, please save the date!!

NEWS and NOTES:

- **Baseball Playoff Season and FSU vs Miami** – Excitement is in the air in Tallahassee as it's the big one, Miami vs FSU, which brings lots of energy and people to town. Its also post-season baseball.
- **FRA attends both the RHA and RPF meetings** – Shannon, Amy and Ron attended the *Renal Health Association (RHA)* meeting in Orlando at Disney and made a presentation of the history of the FRA, mission and accomplishments. We encouraged other states to consider creating their own state association, as we are only one of three in the nation. Shannon, Cody and Ron also attended the *Renal Professional Forum (RPF)* meeting and made a similar presentation to a room full of Floridians. We encouraged membership in the FRA and recruited attendees for Kidney Day 2026 with a vendor table covered in swag!!
- **Federal Government Shutdown** – The Federal Government officially shut down on October 1st as both sides could not agree on a stop-gap spending bill. The federal telehealth rules, which were greatly relaxed under the pandemic, expired and will cause more difficulties with utilizing telehealth services. However, HHS is still operating and Medicaid in Florida should continue as normal.
- **Attorney General creates a Public Complaint Portal** – Florida's new AG, James Uthmeier, recently announced the creation of a portal on his web site for any citizen to complain about improper/threatening on-line conduct. Many believe this is a response to the Charlie Kirk assassination and the comments that occurred shortly after his death. Free speech rights and cancel culture are being challenged like never before. Several teachers are being disciplined for off-duty on-line comments deemed inappropriate.
- **City/County Audits (Property Taxes?)** – The new CFO of Florida, Blaise Ingoglia, has been touring the state focusing attention on "certain" local governments attempting to show waste, and abuse of local spending. Many believe this is setting the stage for a major property tax constitutional amendment for the 2026 ballot. Politically speaking, a legislatively proposed constitutional amendment does not need Governor approval to be on the ballot, so Governor DeSantis has already floated the idea of calling a special session next summer, before the primary elections, IF he doesn't get what he wants in the proposed constitutional amendment!

- **Right to open carry now the law of Florida** – Florida AG decided not to appeal the recent DCA ruling declaring Florida’s ban on open carry unconstitutional. This means open carry is basically the law in Florida; however, business/schools and government can still restrict these rights. Several “Amendment 2 Auditors” have been seen in Florida walking the streets with firearms displayed and filming their encounters. Publix supermarkets recently announced they are allowing open carry in their stores, while many others have said no.
- **Special Election Result** – Due to the appointment of Sen. Ingoglia, a special primary election was held in Senate district 11 to replace him. The primary was won by former Rep. Ralph Massullo (R) who is an MD. There is still a general election in early December, but the Republican primary most likely was the race.
- **Medicaid Expansion Constitutional Amendment Delayed** – Florida Decides Healthcare recently announced their push to get a constitutional amendment on the 2026 ballot will be delayed until the 2028 ballot. They blamed the recently passed legislation as making it impossible to gather the signatures in time.

Early planning is already underway for the **20th annual Kidney Day which will occur from February 8-10 in Tallahassee**. So far it looks like we will have an NKFF walk on Sunday the 8th at 4pm with a nice dinner reception at the private Governors Club Sunday evening. Monday should be a half-day meeting with CE credits being offered, a meeting with AHCA officials and a working reception that night to get prepared for Tuesday at the Capitol. We have reserved the entire 3rd floor Rotunda and will be hosting kidney screenings while we meet with legislators/staff throughout the day.

Bills are being filed for the 2026 session, and the **social workers licensure compact** has both a Senate and House version now. **SB 74** is sponsored by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 13** is by Rep. Christine Hunschofsky (D-Parkland). The FRA will be working to pass this bill.

The first week of committee meetings for the 2026 session begin next week. Stay tuned for further updates and thank you for your membership on the FRA!

KIDNEY DAY 2026
February 8-10