

## FRA Legislative meeting summary for 02/06/2026

The Florida Renal Association's (FRA) Legislative Committee met for the 1st time in 2026 on Friday February 6th. The Legislative Committee did not meet in January due to the holidays. Below is a summary of the pre-Kidney Day meeting led by FRA Lobbyist Ron Watson.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Kidney Day is Feb 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, See you soon!**

*The 20th annual Kidney Day will take place from February 8-10 in Tallahassee. The schedule includes a NKFF walk on Sunday the 8th at 3pm with a nice dinner reception at the private Governors Club Sunday evening. Monday is 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.*

### **The 2026 FRA legislative agenda include:**

- Social workers licensure compact (HB 13 / SB 74)
- Living organ donor time off bill (HB 493 / SB 390)
- Oppose ending vaccine mandates (HB 917 and SB 1756)
- Food is medicine (HB 1315 / SB 1470)
- Expanded use of home modalities
- Improved/accountable transportation options
- Self-administration of Erythropoietin (ESAs) in Medicaid coverage
- Continuation of third-party payor of insurance premiums
- Protecting Medi-Gap policies
- Medicaid fee increase

### **NEWS and NOTES:**

- **Happy Winter Olympics and Super Bowl weekend** – Go USA and yes, the Super Bowl is Sunday evening at the same time as our Governors Club Dinner!
- **Brrrrrr its cold** – Tallahassee recently had snowflakes and a high temp of 20 and a low of 8 degrees!!! Plumbers are making a killing as pipes are bursting right and left. Please bring warm clothes for Kidney Day!!
- **President Albritton Heart Issues / Blood Clots** – Unfortunately, it was recently discovered President Ben Albritton has some health issues. He went to the Tallahassee hospital with chest pains and then was referred to Shands for additional testing and treatment for blood clots. He has resumed his duties after missing several days of treatment and rest. WE wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.
- **No Constitutional Amendment makes ballot** – There will be no citizen lead constitutional amendments on the ballot in 2026 as the recreational marijuana amendment did not have enough verified signatures by the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. However, the group is suing over many eliminated signatures they believe were incorrectly invalidated. The Legislature could still put a property tax measure on the ballot in 2026.
- **TrumpRX.gov** – President just announced the launch of a discounted drug pricing web site. It is starting with 5 companies and 43 drugs and is cash purchase. You cannot have government

insurance, agree not to seek reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses or can count towards your deductible. The drug companies agreed to a “other wealthy nations” pricing to avoid tariffs.

### Session Updates:

- **Favored Nation drug pricing bill moving** – HB 697 is moving in the House and is heavily opposed by PhRMA. The bill does many things including PBM regulation, but the focus is on requiring a “favored nation” drug pricing for Medicaid pharmaceuticals. There is language included to pass the savings onto patients!
- **Vaccine mandate update** – There is a measles outbreak going on in Florida now at UF and Ave Maria college. At the same time, Gov. DeSantis is trying to have the school entry immunization requirements removed from law. Thankfully, there is no bill moving right now that does that; however, there is a “medical freedom” bill that would expand the religious exemption to also include a conscientious objection and an on-line form to make it easier. The FRA continues to oppose these bills.
- **Property Taxes** – The Senate has not taken any action on property tax relief thus far and don’t seem inclined to do so in the regular session. Pres. Albritton also said he doesn’t see any property insurance changes either this session as past year changes are starting to show benefits. The House has moved several different property tax relief proposals, which would have to be approved by the voters in November as a constitutional amendment. This may also be a special session issue.
- **Other bills moving** – There is a diabetes research bill moving as well as a couple of autism bills. There are several scope of practice expansion bills moving in the House, including a dental therapist and independent nursing bill, but are not moving in the Senate. The AIDS drug assistance funding has become a huge issue as the Department of Health recently cut funding and eligibility. And the Medicaid work requirement bill is moving in the Senate, but not in the House.
- **The Budget is the only bill they have to pass** – The Florida constitutional requires the legislature to pass one bill annually and it is a balanced budget. Last session they needed an extra 45 days to finish the budget before the new fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It looks like we may be heading in that direction again as we would normally have had the subcommittees releasing their versions this week. Neither side has done so yet and its getting testy.
- **Almost halfway** – The session is almost half over, and Kidney Day is next week. This is the latest we have ever held Kidney Day during session. In the ole days, we use to have it during committee weeks, which can occur months ahead of session.

Mr. Watson then gave a brief overview of the above-mentioned FRA legislative issues. He also gave a breakdown of the events to occur including the NKFF walk info, the details on the Governors Club dinner including guest speakers and legislative guests on Sunday. A brief rundown of the annual meeting on Monday and a game plan for entering the capital on Tuesday morning. He then explained the 16 legislative meetings and lunch details.