



FSA Newsletter

AUGUST 2020

Dear FSA Members,

As your President, it is my pleasure and duty to keep you informed about pertinent anesthesia news in the State of Florida, efforts by the FSA to promote safe, patient-centered, physician-led anesthesia care, and other relevant topics.



Autonomous Nurse Practitioner Legislation

By now, every physician in the State and beyond knows that the Florida Legislature gave up on the concept of physician's supervision of advanced nurse practitioners. Yet, thanks to the successful efforts of the FSA, our lobbying team, and undeniable data, lawmakers acknowledge to continue with mandatory supervision of nurse anesthetists for the safety of Floridians in concert with the majority of other states and the VA system despite a vehement disinformation campaign and presentation of alternative facts by proponents of independent practice. It is clear to all of us, that this major win for vulnerable Floridians will continue to be challenged with even greater ferocity by state trade associations and their national counterparts. The FSA under my leadership is poised and prepared to persevere and to protect the patients in Florida.

"Nurse Anesthesiologists"

While the controversial declaratory statement by the Florida Board of Nursing allowing ONE and ONLY ONE specific nurse anesthetist to mislead, deceive and confuse the public is regrettable, the FSA has and will continue to explore all regulatory and statutory options to ensure the clear delineation of a nurse from a physician for sake of transparency and clarity. We are pleased to note that the [American Board of Anesthesiology](#) joined the New Hampshire (NH) Medical Association, the NH Society of Anesthesiology, the [American Society of Anesthesiology](#), the American Medical Board of Specialties and the American Medical Association in legal proceeding against the NH Association of Nurse Anesthetists which promotes the ubiquitous use of this neologistic term. We will continue and intensify our efforts working with legislators, educating the public, and counteracting to recognize and eliminate this false and misleading narrative and carefully analyze the legal proceeding in NH as they evolve. Irrespective, we would like to encourage you to reach out to your local Medical Executive Council to clarify and prohibit the use of misleading and ambiguous titles and descriptions, which are in violation of the [Florida's TIME law](#).

2020 Senate Bill 698 - Pelvic Examination

As of July 1, a Florida physician is required by law to obtain a separate consent for "Pelvic Examination." Reasonable anesthesiologists and hospital legal councils may have a very narrow, textual interpretation and may think that a separate consent is mandated for placement of femoral arterial lines, venous catheters as well as regional nerve blocks in the inguinal region. Our legal team is working in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association, the bill sponsors, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Florida Board of Medicine to provide guidance for anesthesiologists.

FSA in the News

The FSA and anesthesiologists around the state have been featured in the [Summer 2020 Influence Magazine](#) (scroll to page 108) published under its "Epic Responses" section. The article is highlighting our unique training and adaptability to address and overcome any crisis.