



For Immediate Release

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Florida Chapter's Resolution for "Pill Mill Bill" Approved by AMDA House of Delegates

- Resolution seeks to create an exemption for physicians prescribing pain medication in nursing home facilities from controlled substance prescribing requirements

West Palm Beach, Fla. - Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) is very pleased to announce that its Florida Chapter resolution titled, "Reducing Legislative Requirements for Treatment of Pain in Long-Term Care Facilities" was approved by the AMDA House of Delegates at AMDA's annual meeting in March in Washington D.C. This is welcome news as FMDA has worked diligently for more than a year to raise awareness over the unintended negative impact that Bill HB 7095, "the Pill Mill Bill," has on patients residing in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and the physicians who care for them.

Language in the resolution specifically addresses the bill, enacted in 2011, which created controlled substance prescribing requirements that are unnecessary regulatory burdens on physicians and the interdisciplinary team, problematic or inapplicable to the care of elderly nursing home patients, and cause delayed and ineffective pain management.

By approving the resolution, AMDA and its state affiliate chapters support and work with Congress and the Administration towards creating an exemption for physicians prescribing pain medication in nursing home facilities from controlled substance prescribing requirements.

FMDA president Dr. John Symeonides is extremely satisfied with the level of support that other related organizations such as LeadingAge Florida, and AMDA has given FMDA in their fight for physicians rights.

"Collaborating organizations can make such a positive impact on the landscape of long-term care when they work together to achieve a goal," said Dr. Symeonides. "FMDA is very grateful to have the support of so many wonderful organizations, so that necessary changes can be made to legislation to ensure that physicians are protected and that seniors residing in the skilled nursing facility have the highest quality of care."

FMDA's full resolution statement can be found on its website, www.fmda.org.

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The Florida Medical Directors Association represents nearly 250 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners in Florida's postacute care continuum including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing care retirement communities. The mission of FMDA is to promote the highest quality care as patients' transition through the long term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

FMDA is the official state chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Florida.

AMDA – Dedicated to Long-Term Care Medicine American: AMDA is the professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and others practicing in the long-term care continuum, dedicated to excellence in patient care and provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development to promote the delivery of quality long-term care medicine.