**Basic Info**

Full name; Thomas M. Martinko, MD

Designation(s); Asst. Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Florida

City of practice; Gainesville, FL

Specialty or practice type; Adolescent Medicine

**Regional Representative – Region 3 - Candidate Statement**

Tom Martinko came to the University of Florida in 2012 to build up the Adolescent Medicine Service. He is Board Certified in Pediatrics and in Adolescent Medicine. Colonel (Retired) Martinko served in the US Army for 28 years and taught Adolescent Medicine to students and residents at several of the military residencies. He served as the AAP Uniformed Services Chapter West Vice President before becoming the AAP Uniformed Services Chapter East President. After retiring from the military, he established the Adolescent Clinic at the University of South Alabama pediatric program before moving on to the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was named the Interim Section 3 representative for the Florida Chapter of the AAP and now is looking forward to serving a full term in this role. The Florida Chapter of the AAP has established a national reputation in advocating for the health needs of children. Dr. Martinko hopes to continue what has been set in motion and move forward in improving the health coverage for the children in our state. One thing he would like to see is the establishment of more school based or school linked clinics along the model established in North Carolina and Louisiana. We need to decrease the complexity of prescribing for our patients by having fewer Formularies and less need for prior authorizations for medications which are standard of care. The health care of children should be a priority, not a political football.