



# 2016 Legislative Session Update

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After passing an \$82 Billion budget and avoiding the gridlock experienced in 2015, the 2016 Legislative Session came to a close on March 11. The FCAAP provided key assistance with a number of initiatives important to child health and safety including the following:

- Successfully repealed of Kidcare's 5 year waiting list for children of immigrants;
- Defeated efforts to water down Florida's child safety seat law;
- Defeated the bill pre-empting local authority over hydraulic fracturing and similar petroleum extraction methods; and
- Brought considerable attention to the need for Child Protection Teams to have sovereign immunity.

Other successful legislation of interest to pediatricians includes:

- ARNPs may prescribe and dispense controlled substances to the extent authorized under a supervising physician protocol;
- PAs may perform any duties or services delegated by a supervising physician unless such duties or services are expressly prohibited by a statute or rule (for example, they may now prescribe controlled substances);
- Florida will join the Nurse License Compact by December 2018 at the latest;
- The Financial Services Commission must, by administrative rule, create a standardized prior authorization form for mandatory use by those commercial health plans that are not using electronic prior authorization forms by the later of January 1, 2017 or 6 months after the standardized PA form is approved;
- Early Steps was updated and improved in a number of ways such as update of key term definitions, a required statewide plan, enhanced screening, uniform eligibility determination procedures, a new eligibility appeals process, expanded responsibility of local Early Steps offices, etc.