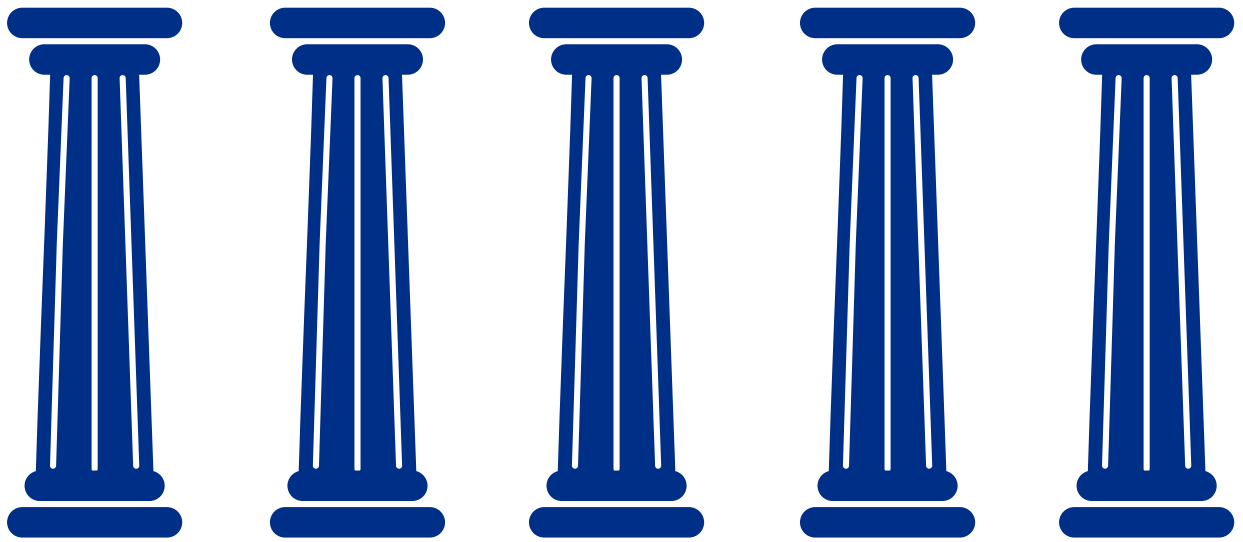




The Five Pillars



of Expanded Access

The Florida Medical Association's plan for addressing Florida's shortage of primary care physicians and nurses



The Problem: Floridians don't have enough access to primary care physicians.

As access to health care continues to expand, Florida policymakers have correctly noted that our state is facing a very real shortage of primary and family care physicians and nurses.

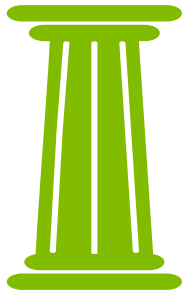
The Florida Medical Association, which represents more than 20,000 of our state's physicians, is taking this concern seriously. We are working toward policy solutions that will effectively — and immediately — address the shortage of primary and family care doctors.

The five pillars detailed in this plan would provide real solutions for physicians and patients affected by this shortage. The pillars are:

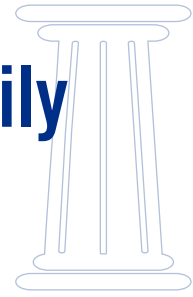
- **Increasing the in-state residency slots for family practice**
- **Redirecting funds for loan forgiveness to family practitioners**
- **Expanding collaboration between PAs, ARNPs and physicians**
- **Fully enacting fair payment for Medicaid services, and**
- **Codifying and regulating telemedicine**

The Florida Medical Association takes our charge seriously. We recognize that the projected shortage of primary care and family care doctors is a very real concern to every Floridian. We will continue our work to increase the number of these doctors and expand access to care in a way that is safe and affordable for patients and physicians.





Increase Funding for Family Practice Residency Slots



Florida has been a leader in expanding medical schools in our state, adding four in the past decade. But we have not kept pace in expanding the number of residency slots and, as a result, we are sending medical students to other states for residency training. Most physicians settle down where they completed their residency training.

Florida ranks
45TH

in the nation with respect to the number of primary care residents and fellows per capita. ^[i]

47.4%

of physicians continue to practice in the state where they finish their graduate medical education. ^[ii]

Florida has the

4th lowest

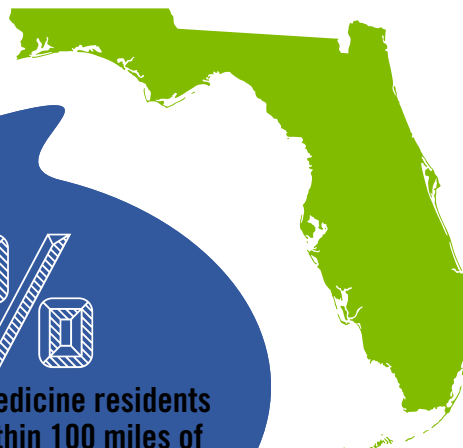
proportion of physicians under the age of 40. ^[iii]

13%

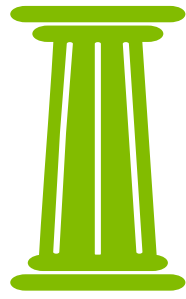
of active Florida physicians plan to retire in the next five years. ^[iv]

56%

of family medicine residents practice within 100 miles of where they complete their training. ^[v]



[i] State Physician Workforce Data Book 2013 - AAMC
[ii] State Physician Workforce Data Book 2013 - AAMC
[iii] State Physician Workforce Data Book 2013 - AAMC
[iv] 2013 DOH Physician Workforce Report
[v] Robert Graham Center, November 15, 2013



Loan Forgiveness for Family Practice Doctors



Florida should restart student loan forgiveness programs in a way that will encourage new graduates to practice in the areas of primary care and family medicine.

86% of medical students graduate with education debt. The median education debt of graduating medical students is around **\$170,000**.

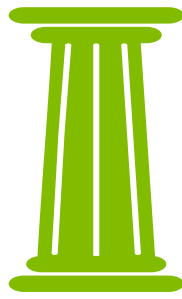
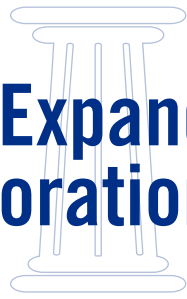
23% of medical students have loans of **\$250,000** or more.



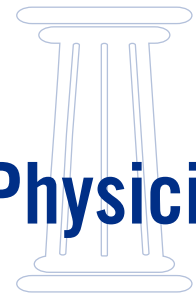
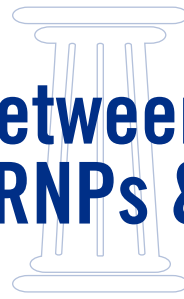
States that offer loan forgiveness opportunities will have a competitive edge in their efforts to attract physicians. Offering state-funded loan forgiveness opportunities for physicians would help Florida become an outstanding place to practice medicine.



Expand Collaboration



Between ARNPs & Physicians



Our physician members are revamping their business and practice models to expand the collaborative relationship between physicians and Physician Assistants (PAs) and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs.) Increasing numbers of Florida physicians are building these types of care teams in a way that will help them reach more patients without sacrificing quality. A good example of this is the medical home model, where the team monitors care in the office AND between appointments.

Why use team-based care such as the medical home model?



Reduce costs

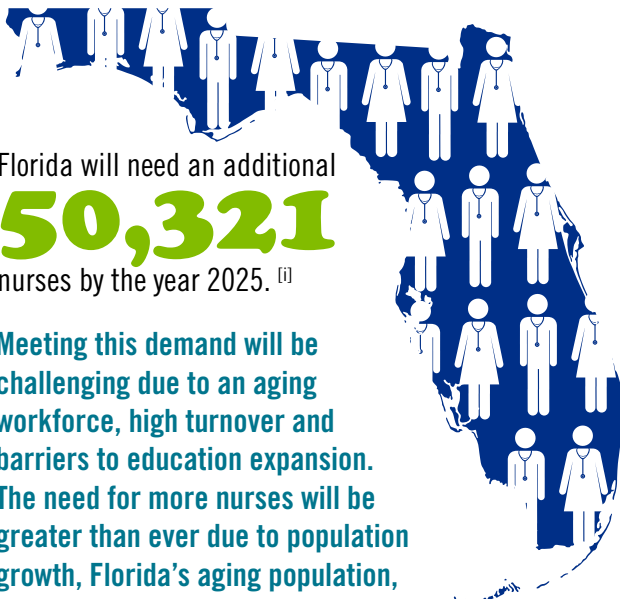


Improve outcomes



Ensure greater efficiency

There is also a shortage of nurses in Florida:



Florida will need an additional **50,321** nurses by the year 2025. ^[i]

Meeting this demand will be challenging due to an aging workforce, high turnover and barriers to education expansion. The need for more nurses will be greater than ever due to population growth, Florida's aging population, and expanded access to healthcare services. We need both nurses and physicians working together.

BCBS of Michigan saved an estimated \$155 million over three years from their patient-centered medical home program. These savings were also accompanied by measurably improved preventive care measures and quality measures. ^[ii]



An analysis of North Carolina's patient-centered medical home program for Medicaid recipients estimated that the benefits of this model may have saved the state around \$180 million over a 4.75 year period. Patients with chronic conditions benefited the most. ^[iii]

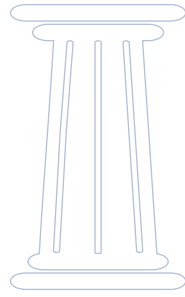
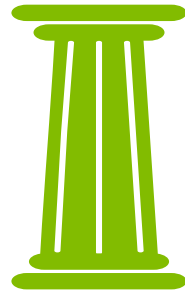


[i] Florida Center for Nursing

[ii] BCBS Michigan

[iii] Health Care Savings with the Patient-Centered Medical Home: Community Care of North Carolina's Experience - Herbert Fillmore, MSW,1 C. Annette DuBard, MD, MPH,2,4 Grant A. Ritter, PhD,3 and Carlos T. Jackson, PhD2,4.

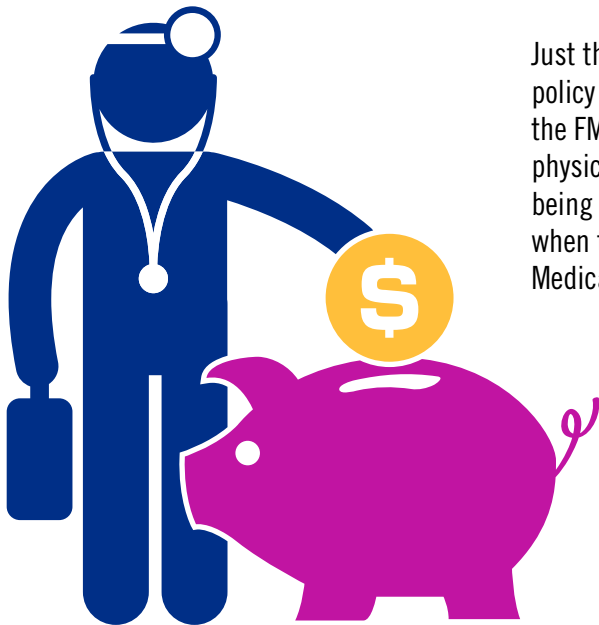
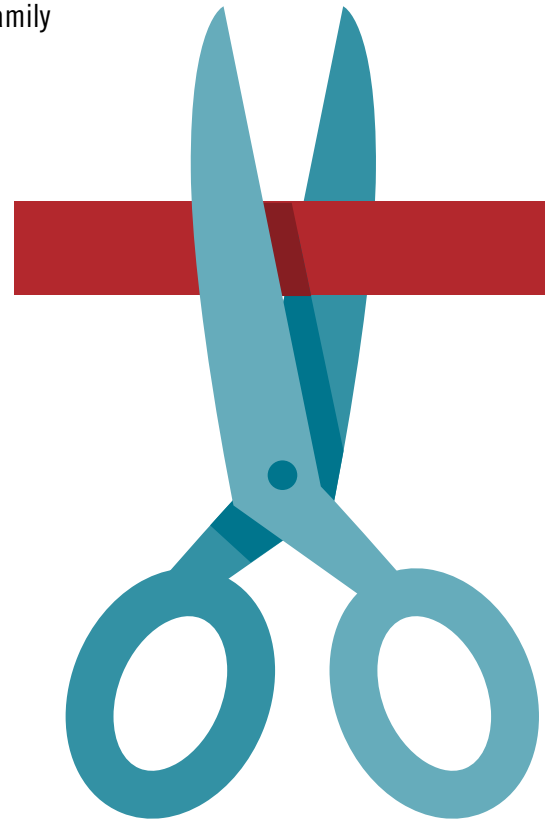
[iv] Independent Blue Cross



Fair Medicaid Reimbursement

Florida must fully enact and continue the new programs that fairly reimburse family physicians for serving Medicaid patients.

Again, regulatory red tape is preventing the successful implementation of a worthwhile program.



Just this summer, due to a policy change supported by the FMA, many family physicians are no longer being asked to lose money when they see and treat Medicaid patients.

This program must be continued and **EXPANDED** to more of our state's family doctors.



It will not only save tax dollars in the long run; it will (if administered correctly) encourage more family doctors to treat those Floridians who receive Medicaid.



Codify and Regulate Telemedicine

The FMA will work with lawmakers to implement the promise of new technologies via telemedicine. We have the opportunity to dramatically expand access to areas where there are too few doctors or where a second opinion is needed quickly. The FMA supports legislation that will modernize medical practice by establishing uniform standards for physicians and maintain patient safety.

To achieve this, four components must be established:

1. Definition of telemedicine: The physician practicing telemedicine must establish a physician-patient relationship and have the patient's informed consent

2. Accountability: Physicians must be licensed in Florida or hold a Florida telemedicine certificate; Board of Medicine must have jurisdiction to credential and discipline

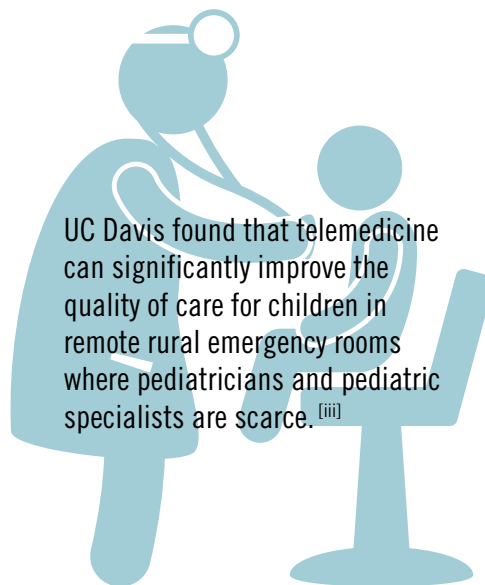
3. Education: Physicians must comply with current laws and complete continuing education

4. Reimbursement: Parity for face-to-face consults and telemedicine consults must apply in the private insurance market as well as in Medicaid. The physician expends the same amount of time, skill, and expertise in both.

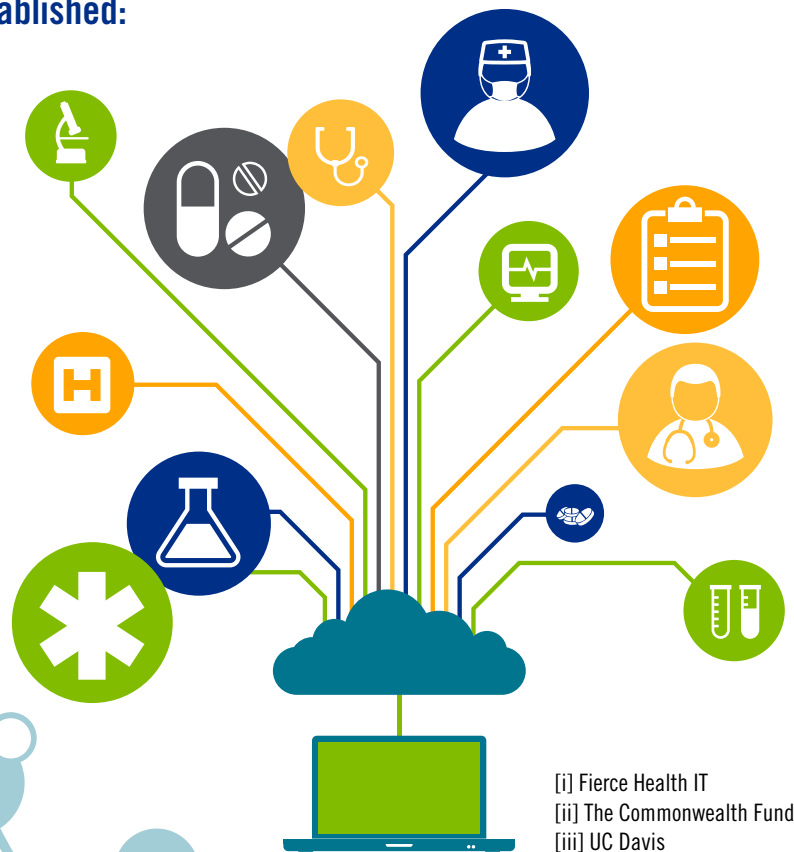
The Department of Veterans Affairs has demonstrated that telemedicine can improve the health outcome of veterans, including those in rural areas. In fact, the VA has stated that its telehealth program has reduced hospital bed days for veterans by 58% and hospital admissions by 38%.^[i]



UC Davis found that telemedicine can significantly improve the quality of care for children in remote rural emergency rooms where pediatricians and pediatric specialists are scarce.^[iii]



A study conducted by The Commonwealth Fund found that remote patient monitoring (RPM) can help **improve coordination, reduce hospital admissions, generate savings** and **improve patient satisfaction.**^[ii]

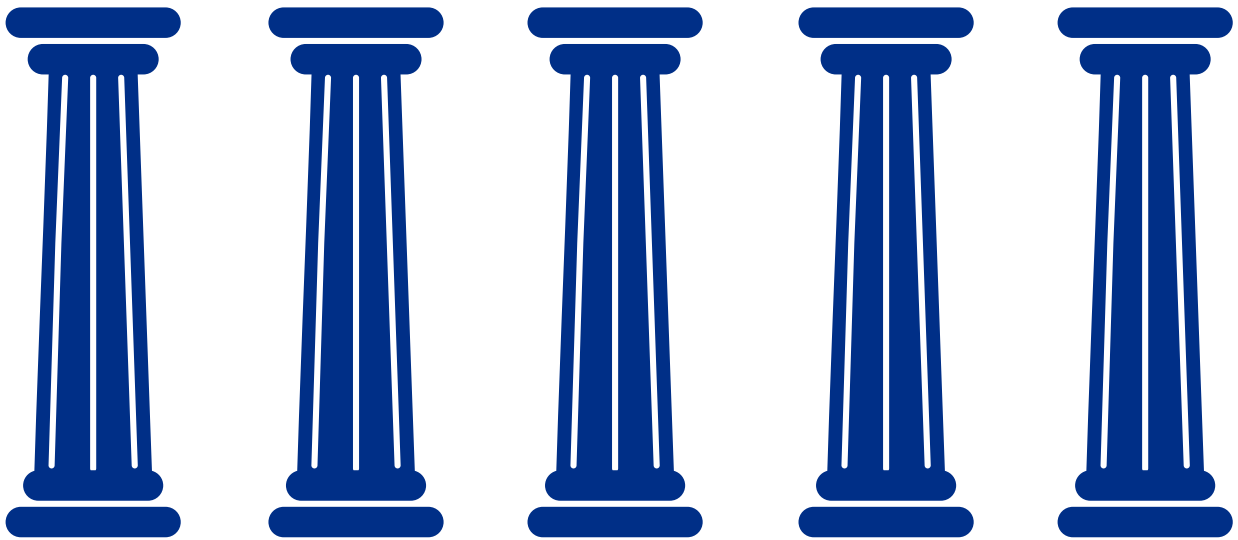


[i] Fierce Health IT
[ii] The Commonwealth Fund
[iii] UC Davis

Our goal is to expand the use of telemedicine while ensuring high standards, protection against fraud and, of course, patient privacy. As with all technological innovations, this will take a great deal of hard work, thought, and innovative thinking.



FMA



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