

Dear Member,

We need your help in familiarizing Legislators on a personal level with the refinements we believe are necessary to allow podiatrists to practice their profession as fully as possible and to enhance access to vital health care services. We ask that you call your state representative and senator to ask for their support of our Scope of Practice Bill and the Business Law Bill. The more members our lawmakers hear from, the greater chance we have on getting these important bills passed, which will serve to enhance access to care, lower costs and improve outcomes for patients. Both bills are critical because the current environment is impacting graduating students remaining in state. This year, not all residency slots were filled in NY, yet all graduating students from New York College of Podiatric Medicine matched for a residency.

Scope of Practice Bill

Amending state laws to better align the scope of practice of podiatry with their education and training will:

- ✓ Remove artificial impediments to treating wounds and skin conditions on the ankle -- the language of our scope law requires such wounds appear first on the foot and be “contiguous” with any wound appearing on the ankle, often forcing podiatrists to turn patients away whose wounds do not present just that way.
- ✓ Improve the path to obtaining ankle privileges. Board certified ankle surgeons should have their advanced ankle surgery peer reviewed during the certification process.
- ✓ Increase access and continuity of care by authorizing podiatrist to perform the services and procedures for which they have been trained.
- ✓ Encourage an integrated team approach to care, resulting in better clinical outcomes.
- ✓ Enable all team members to practice only within their scope, but with more .communication.
- ✓ Improve early identification and intervention of disease.
- ✓ Help achieve NY State public health goals.

Business Law Bill

The Business Law bill will allow MDs/DOs to jointly own practices with other Title VIII healthcare professionals if they so desire. This will result in:

✓ Greater collaboration and coordination of health care providers which can improve quality and reduce costs.

✓ Increased access to care for patients by coordinating care at a single location, now more important than ever.

✓ Health care providers would gain from these types of partnership through sharing of liabilities and costs and practice infrastructure.

There is no public health or patient safety concern associated with allowing joint ownership; does not impact existing scope or oversight laws of the various health professions.

Thank you for your assistance in advancing the practice of podiatry in New York.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandro Frasca, Chair
NYSPMA Legislative Affairs Committee