



**For Immediate Release**

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## **FMDA President Testifies Before the House Health Innovation Subcommittee in Support of HB 539**

**West Palm Beach, Fla.** - FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PA/LTC) Medicine’s president, Leonard Hock, DO, MACOI, CMD, HMDC, FAAHPM; Chief Medical Officer, Harbor Palliative Care & AIM, TrustBridge Health, recently testified in Tallahassee before the House Health Innovation Subcommittee regarding House Bill 539, “An Act Relating to Hospice.” This bill addresses quality measures, prescription drug disposal after a patient’s death, and palliative care services to non-hospice, seriously ill patients. After the testimonies were completed, the bill passed the Subcommittee.

“As a hospice physician it has become clear to me and to my colleagues that the suffering from disease can become overwhelming to a patient far before they would be a candidate to be admitted to hospice care. This bill is an opportunity to advance the comfort care and wishes of the families in Florida,” Hock said.

To view Dr. Hock’s testimony before the House Innovation Subcommittee, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvElkaRoa-E>

According to the Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association, the statewide organization representing Florida’s hospice programs, this bill translates into better care for both seriously ill and terminally ill patients and modernizes sections of the law to best meet the needs of survivors and caregivers.

Others who joined in support of HB 539 at the House Health Innovation Subcommittee were Community Hospice of Northeast Florida President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel; Mike McQuone of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops; American Cancer Society/Cancer Action Network Florida Government Relations Matt Jordan; and National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter Executive Director Jim Akin.

FMDA is the largest chapter of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, and is comprised of medical directors, attending physicians, advanced practice nurses, consultant pharmacists, registered pharmacists, nurse administrators, and administrators in the PA/LTC continuum. All of these disciplines make FMDA one of the most dynamic and diverse PA/LTC associations in the state of Florida.

FMDA is celebrating its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference during Best Care Practices in the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Continuum 2017, October 12-15, at Disney’s *Grand Floridian Resort* in Orlando. Please visit [www.bestcarepractices.org](http://www.bestcarepractices.org) for more information.

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**FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine** represents medical directors, attending physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurse administrators and nursing home administrators in Florida’s post-acute continuum including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing care retirement communities.

The mission of FMDA, The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, is to promote the highest quality care as patients transition through the post-acute and long-term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

FMDA is the official and largest state chapter of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Florida.