



March 3, 2025

Dr. Leonard Hock
Florida Medical Directors Association
The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
1194 Old Dixie Highway, Suite 4
Lake Park, FL 33403

Dear Dr. Hock,

On behalf of the Home Care Association of Florida (HCAF) and the more than 2,300 licensed home health agencies we represent, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 566 and HB 353, sponsored by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and Representative Susan Plasencia. These bills establish Patient-Directed Medical Orders (PDMOs) to ensure that patients' treatment preferences are legally documented, easily accessible, and consistently honored across all health care settings, including home health care.

Florida has one of the largest aging populations in the country, with many residents receiving care at home for chronic illnesses and complex medical conditions. However, existing advance directives, living wills, and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders often fail to provide clear, enforceable instructions when they are needed most. These documents may be unavailable in urgent situations, outdated, or misunderstood by providers, leading to medical interventions that contradict patient wishes, unnecessary hospitalizations, and disruptions in care coordination.

SB 566 and HB 353 directly address these challenges by establishing a statewide electronic registry for PDMOs, ensuring that home health providers, hospitals, emergency responders, and other health care professionals can quickly verify and follow a patient's documented medical orders. With an easily accessible, physician-authorized order, providers can prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, honor patient choices, and ensure seamless care transitions.

This legislation will also streamline administrative processes and reduce liability concerns for home health agencies and other providers. A standardized and legally recognized PDMO system eliminates the ambiguity and inefficiencies of the current patchwork approach, allowing providers to focus on delivering high-quality care rather than determining whether existing documentation is applicable or enforceable. By reducing avoidable medical interventions and emergency transfers, SB 566/HB 353 will also help optimize health care resources and improve patient outcomes statewide.

We commend Senator Rodriguez and Representative Plasencia for their leadership on this critical issue and urge state lawmakers to pass SB 566/HB 353. These bills offer a practical, patient-centered solution to longstanding challenges in honoring medical preferences, strengthening care coordination, and supporting home health providers in delivering the right care at the right time.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving Florida's health care system. HCAF and our members look forward to working with you to ensure the successful passage and implementation of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Denise Bellville'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Bellville, RN, BS, COS-C
Executive Director