



LEGISLATURE TAKES A BREAK

Legislative business slowed to a crawl this past week as the Senate took off the entire week and the House met only on Wednesday and Thursday. The House and Senate budget committees have completed their work and the majority of House policy committees have concluded business. Senate committees typically meet until the last week of session. Several key issues such as property tax relief and the continuation of Florida's Motor Vehicle No-Fault automobile insurance system remain unresolved.

DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL TIMING COINCIDES WITH OUTSTANDING BUDGET ISSUES

You have probably noticed that Dentists' Day on the Hill occurs later in the session this year than in past years. Historically, Dentists' Day on the Hill occurred either the 4th or 5th week of session. This year, you will travel to Tallahassee on the 7th week of session. This week was the only time the facilities could accommodate our group during the 2007 Session.

As luck would have it, our major outstanding issues for this year are budgetary, and the 7th week of session should see the first rounds of negotiations between the House and Senate Conference Committees. The timing is perfect to focus on funding for the dental student loan repayment program, funding for the expansion of the capacity to educate graduates from non-accredited dental schools and increase funding for Medicaid dental reimbursements. Next year, we will return to our normal schedule for Dentists' Day on the Hill.

60 MORE DENTISTS NEEDED AT DENTISTS' DAY!

The FDA needs YOU to register for Dentists' Day on the Hill. Dentists' Day is on Tuesday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 18 in Tallahassee. The goal is to have 200 dentists attend this event. As of today, only 140 have registered to attend. That's only 2% of the FDA membership!



The importance of this event can not be stressed enough. This is the ONE day of the year that is designated at Florida's Capitol as "Dentists' Day." **Legislators are aware of this date and expect to see you at the Capitol.** This is the time for you to discuss issues that are important to your profession

and issues that affect the well being of your patients. If you have not been to Dentists' Day before, that's ok. You may join colleagues from your area for legislative visits. If you do not know of anyone in your area that is attending, call the FDA Governmental Affairs Office; FDA staff will make certain that you are paired up with a dentist from your area.

DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:



Tuesday, April 17

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Legislative Reception at Paradigm Restaurant

The Reception is for FDA members, dental students, spouses and all members of the Florida Legislature.

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Briefing

The Briefing will immediately follow the Reception and is for members who are in Tallahassee on Tuesday evening. If you have a meeting that conflicts with the breakfast briefing, you will be able to register and be briefed on legislative issues during this session.

Wednesday, April 18

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Registration at the FSU Center for Professional Development

8:30 -10:15 a.m.

Breakfast Briefing at the FSU Center for Professional Development

Attendees will be briefed on current legislative dental issues and hear from a distinguished guest speaker.

10:30 -11:30 a.m.

Museum of Florida History Tour

Discover Florida's past by taking a guided tour of the Museum of Florida History. The Museum Tour is available for attendees who do not have scheduled meetings between the Breakfast Briefing and the Luncheon. For more information on the Museum of Florida History, visit www.museumoffloridahistory.com. Museum admission is free.

10:30 a.m.-Noon

Dentists' Day on the Hill Visits

Meet with legislators. Participants are responsible for scheduling meetings with their legislators before

arriving in Tallahassee. If you do not know who your legislators are, call the FDA Governmental Affairs Office.

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Dentists' Day Luncheon at Capitol

Enjoy lunch with your colleagues and legislators at the Capitol's Waller Park.

1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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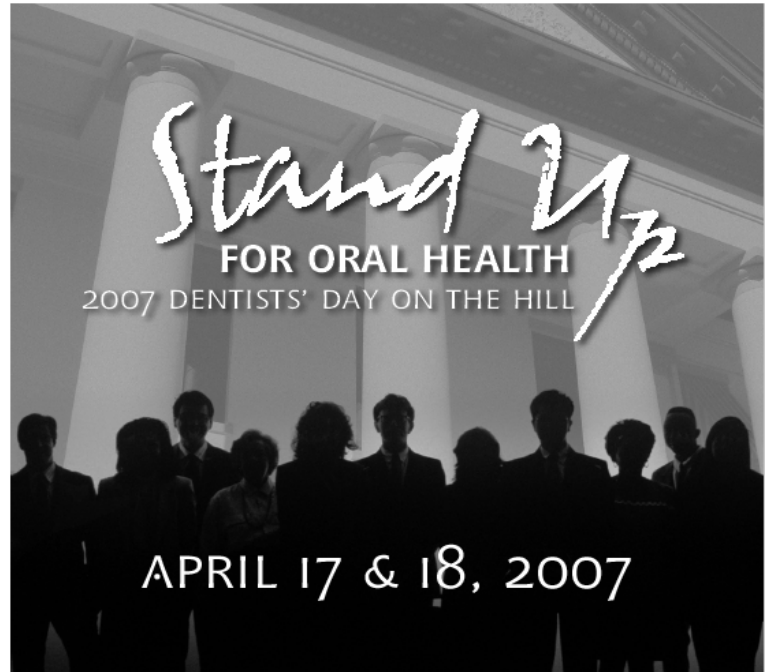
For more information on Dentists' Day on the Hill or to register, call the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at (800) 326-0051.

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT

Rep. Dan Gelber (D-Miami Beach) was first elected to the Florida House in 2000 and reelected subsequently. He is currently in a distinguished leadership position as Democratic Minority Leader for 2007 and 2008. He serves as a member of the House Rules & Calendar Council and the Joint Conference Committee on Hurricane Insurance & Preparedness. Rep. Gelber has a rich past in government; he served as Chief Counsel to former United States Sen. Sam Nunn from 1994-1996 and Staff Director of the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations from 1994-1996.



Rep. Gelber's legislative contact dentist (LCD) team leader is Dr. Edmund Parnes and Drs. Lawrence Krasne and Robert Wolf serve as his LCD team members.



**FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION
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