

LWVJ/FC Healthcare Committee 10/2019 Report

Mary McLaughlin, Chairperson

Our committee's most recent meeting was after the 10/02/2019 general luncheon meeting at Seasons 52. Those in attendance had an opportunity to further discuss Medicaid Expansion issues with Dr. Jennifer Cowart, the day's speaker, including ways to support it happening in FL. Contacting our local legislator representatives of its importance to us is the primary way at this time.

Connie Pegram and Mary McLaughlin participated in the LWVFL Healthcare monthly conference call at which guest presenters spoke on the need for passing this year the bills RE: Dental Therapists, which LWCFL supported last year and will be reviewing to determine their support for this year.

In addition it was reported that:

- **Senate** - As of today, 20 bills filed which have some relationship to health care
- **House** - As of today, 12 bills filed which have some relationship to health care

- Bills do not have a staff analysis yet and some have committee assignments but as of noon on 10/07 none had been scheduled for review.

- Four health care related bills have been selected for preliminary review by LWVFL Healthcare team members. Although too early to know if they will gain traction, it seemed prudent to gain some experience in reading and discussing bills. Selections were based on: perceived importance of topic and fact that they had companion bills in both chambers. Bills to be reviewed include the following topics: limit on cost of insulin, lead in drinking fountains in schools, payment for breast milk from banks and conversion therapy. Reviewers include Mary McLaughlin.

- **Four bills have been submitted in an effort to expand Medicaid-**
 - SJR224 /HJR247 are joint resolutions to include Medicaid Expansion on the 2020 ballot as a constitutional amendment

 - SB164/HB 219 are still place holders but are expected to result in a law to accept the federal funds to expand Medicaid

Mary McLaughlin has also put the legislative liaison for FL's Association for Physician Assistants in contact with the liaison for the LWVFL Healthcare Committee to see whether LWVFL would consider supporting SB 972/HB821 RE: PA's and ARNP's to practice autonomously, if these bill are to be resubmitted in2020.