

FPMA Diabetic Foot/Shoes Outreach Project

By Chris Hansen, FPMA Lobbyist



The month of April is always important to podiatrists across the country as it is National Foot Health Awareness Month. This year, FPMA has plans to make April 2023 memorable. FPMA is working with Gov. Ron DeSantis on a lower extremity proclamation, a legislative advocacy day at the Capitol and will seek funding through a legislative appropriation for a diabetic foot/shoes outreach project.

FPMA leaders and interested Barry University students gathered in Tallahassee on April 3 and 4, 2023, to promote proper foot care and advocate for diabetic foot/shoes funding. In January 2023, the FPMA lobby team met with Rep. Melony Bell (R-Fort Meade) and Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and secured their support in fighting for the funding to bring this important program to needy Floridians. These two legislators will be our champions for this year's 60-day session.

The purpose of this program is to bring awareness to and relief of diabetic foot disease. If approved by the legislature, the funding will be used to provide preventative foot care, along with proper shoes and

proactive foot education and instruction. With the proper diabetic shoes, there will be a reduction in skin breakdowns, which often lead to further complications and possible hospitalization.

If our foot health awareness messaging, grassroots advocacy and legislative session lobbying efforts are successful, many vulnerable Floridians will benefit. And our role in delivery of care to the lower extremities will be demonstrated from Pensacola to Key West.

Florida Legislative Session Dates: March 7, 2023, to May 5, 2023.



Rep. Melony Bell



Sen. Corey Simon