Florida Society of Medical Assistants
April 29, 2016
Resolution 1- DRAFT

SUBJECT: Florida House Bill 4007 and Senate Bill 238 to eliminate subsection 3 of Section 458.3485 of the Florida Medical Assisting Practice Act which refers to certification has been passed by unanimous vote of the Florida Senate and House and will become effective July 2016 once signed by Governor Rick Scott.

Subsection (3) reads:
(3) CERTIFICATION. ---Medical Assistants may be certified by the American Association of Medical Assistants or as a Registered Medical Assistant by the American Medical Technologists.

WHEREAS: It is understood that medical assisting certification in the State of Florida is voluntary, and that terminology "may be" is non-enforceable, however FSMA shared concerns with Representative Pigman and Senator Grimsley (authors of the bills) as well as other legislators that the enactment of the repeal referencing all certification could be construed as a statement by the Florida legislature that the competence and credentialing of medical assistants by a recognized standard is not important; and

WHEREAS: FSMA's position for several decades has been that public health and well-being can be jeopardized by substandard medical assisting not adequately educated and trained, and not demonstrating their medical assisting knowledge by passing a valid and reliable national medical assisting examination; and

WHEREAS: FSMA offered that the necessity of medical assisting credentialing has been recognized by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the DHHS when they issued a ruling in 2012 that only "credentialed medical assistants" are permitted to enter orders for meaningful use calculations under the EHR Incentive Programs.

Be it

RESOLVED: It is the intention of the Florida Society of Medical Assistants to educate and gain support for a subsection on Certification in the Florida Medical Assisting Practice Act requiring clinical medical assistants to be:

1. Graduates of a medical assisting program meeting the Florida Department of Education Standards and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and
2. Holders of a current medical assisting certification from a medical assisting certification program that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and be it further

RESOLVED: The authority of physicians and physician assistants to delegate to medical assistants is established by Florida law. Because Florida law also authorizes nurse practitioners to practice with a degree of autonomy, it is the intention of the Florida Society of Medical Assistants to seek legal clarification (through regulation and/or legislation) that nurse practitioners are permitted to delegate an appropriate scope of clinical tasks to medical assistants who are:

1. Graduates of a medical assisting program meeting the Florida Department of Education Standards and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and
2. Holders of a current medical assisting certification from a medical assisting certification program that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).