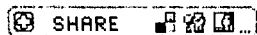


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# Call to Action: Get Prepared - Reduce Inmate Medical Expen...



## Call to Action: Get Prepared - Reduce Inmate Medical Expenses

**Friday, January 08, 2010** As counties are making cutbacks at every level, counties continue to strive for efficiencies in every way possible. One common theme among county commissioners and sheriffs that will appear in the legislature this coming session is the topic of inmate medical costs. Sheriff Coats from Pinellas County asked Representative Hooper and Senator Jones to sponsor legislation that would limit the amount counties must pay for inmate medical costs. This would allow Boards to contain costs by capping the reimbursement rate for such medical expenses to the Medicaid rate. [Click here](#) for a talk sheet and feel free to edit for your county's needs.

This issue is scheduled for a committee hearing on January 19, 2010 in the Senate Community Affairs Committee. For more information, please contact FAC's Public Safety Advocate [Sarrah Troncoso](#)

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## SB 218 & HB 319

### Inmate Medical Expenses

Issue: Statute requires Counties and Sheriffs to provide medical services to persons who have been charged with a crime, or are being held in county detention facilities.

This bill would reduce expenditures by Sheriff's Offices to the Medicaid rate for all inmate medical care, treatment, hospitalization, and transportation.

Current law states that when no contract exists between a county detention facility and a third party provider, that third party may seek reimbursement from the county's general fund.

Taxpayers end up responsible for paying full fee rates to providers for person who would otherwise receive indigent rates.

In the current climate of increasing healthcare costs, *taxpayers* should not be left to pay for excessive costs to third party providers.

Last year, the Legislature passed similar language for the Department of Corrections.

Please extend the same courtesy to Boards of County Commissioners.

*Florida's taxpayers need your assistance.*