

Climate Updates

'Fracking' Ban could become a reality this year!

The good news is that there are ban bills moving in both the House and Senate, and the Governor has issued an Executive Order in favor of banning fracking.

Senate Bill 314 is a good, clean bill and recently passed out of it's first committee. The not so good news is that the House Committee Bill would exempt matrix acidizing from any fracking prohibition, allowing a chemical mixture to be injected under low pressure. "We don't know all the chemicals they use, but of the ones we do know, we know are carcinogens," said PSR/Florida Board Member, Howard Kessler, MD as he testified during the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting this week. [Read the Tallahassee Democrat article here.](#) [Read the Tampa Bay Times article here.](#)

It's important that our state leaders hear from us to ensure this bill is fixed to include the full definition of fracking by amending it to include matrix acidizing.

Please make these 2 calls right now:

* Call Governor DeSantis at 866-846-4075 - to let him know you want ALL forms of fracking banned:
-Give your name, city, and that you want Governor DeSantis to ensure the state bans all forms of fracking, including matrix acidizing.

* Call House Speaker Oliva at 850-717-5110 - to let him know you want the House committee bill amended to also include matrix acidizing:

-Give your name, city, and that you want Oliva to amend the ban fracking committee bill to ban all forms of fracking, including matrix acidizing.

With a little nudge from Constituents this could be the year we finally see a full fracking ban in Florida!

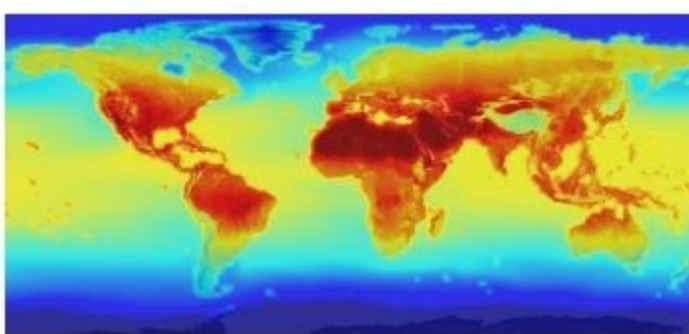
**Want to raise your voice even louder?
Join us in Tallahassee on March 13th for a Day of Advocacy!
Click below for more details.**



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Climate Change-A Health Emergency

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE



Physicians from sister chapter Greater Boston PSR; Dr. Regina C. LaRocque and Caren G. Solomon, recently co-authored an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine. As physicians, they emphasize the need to educate their patients, students and colleagues about the devastating effects of climate change, instigated by environmental degradation, air pollution, vector-borne and waterborne diseases.

Click below for the complete article.

[Link to NEJM Article](#)

Toxic Chemicals

Board members Drs. Ron Saff and Howard Kessler have been working tirelessly to raise awareness around lead in drinking water in Florida schools. Lead is a potent neurotoxin. It gets into the brain and even at low levels can cause damage. There is no safe level of lead. Thankfully Florida legislators have taken notice. Two Florida legislators have taken notice. Two Florida legislators have taken notice. **HB 545 and SB 66: Drinking Water in Public Schools.** Both bills would require certain schools to track the water sources where students can consume water by installing barcodes on those sources like water fountains and sinks. In addition, the bills would mandate that schools built before 1986 also install an approved filter that reduces lead in drinking water. Stay tuned as these bills move through the legislature.



Experts Speak: Our Health Changes With Climate Changes



Lynn Ringenberg, MD, was interviewed for a podcast by Dr. Abbey Strauss, a psychiatrist based in Boca Raton. In this podcast, Dr. Ringenberg discussed the effects of climate change, including allergies, asthma, vector/waterborne disease, heat injury, and other maladies correlated with continuous climate change. During this interview, Dr. Ringenberg also covers the basic definition of climate change, natural climatic cycles, environmental issues including deforestation, and how children are impacted differently than adults. In addition, she also discussed the new IPCC report about keeping the global temperatures below 1.5°C, the National Climate Assessment and Lancet report. Please listen to the attached podcast, available [here](#).

[Podcast](#)

Board Member Spotlight

Meet our new Board President, Jefry Biehler, MD, MPH



- How did you get involved in PSR Florida?**
I began my journey with PSR Florida after working with the Climate Reality Project under Al Gore. Due to my interest in environmental issues and nuclear disarmament, I found out about PSR Florida and wished to be a part of it. I was introduced into the executive board through the other board members.
- What are you currently advocating for?**
Because I am a pediatrician, I deeply care for issues that involve children, which include water quality and other environmental issues that affect the health and future of children.
- Can you tell us about your first-hand experiences with nuclear weapons and environmental issues?**
I grew up in Oklahoma during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I experienced the impacts of fracking as it occurred in my hometown against my will. Fracking impacts the environment at all levels, which includes the contamination of soil and water, and the health of children.
- Do you have any ideas as to how to spread awareness about the hazards associated with it?**
What we as an organization is doing right now is quite effective. It is important to help people understand the science behind fracking and climate change. This is not a political agenda, as climate change is real.
- Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**
My family and I have been part of the environmental movement for a long time. My son graduated from Florida International University with a degree in sustainable agriculture, which was definitely a proud moment for my family and myself. I am quite proud of my heritage.

We are on Instagram!



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