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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

April 3, 2020

State of the States



Florida's Chief Financial Officer has **ordered** the Division of Risk Management

to begin processing workers' compensation claims for certain essential employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19. The state has a reported 36 claims filed by police officers, firefighters, EMTs, health care workers, correctional officers, and National Guard members that the Division has yet to process. Jimmy Patronis, CFO, stated in the order, "Workers' compensation insurance was developed to provide our public servants a way to cover a portion of their lost wages and medical costs, so their families don't have to worry as much... Providing this important coverage to our men and women on the front line is just the right thing to do."



The Georgia Court of Appeals issued a ruling earlier this week that **prohibits** a temporary

employee from bringing a tort claim against their temporary employer as a result of being injured while working for the company. The court found, that although they are a temporary employee, their only recourse for an on-the-job injury is via the workers' compensation system, not through civil litigation.



The National Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police union in the country representing over 350,000 officers, **issued** "An Open Letter to Our Nation's Governors" on Tuesday. The letter calls on all Governors to amend their state's workers' compensation statutes to establish a presumption that law enforcement officers who contract COVID-19 did so in the line of duty. The letter goes on to note that law enforcement officers will be exposed to the virus at a far greater rate than the general public and are being provided inadequate personal protective equipment to guard against contracting the virus.



State of the States



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Greg Abbott has suspended additional

provisions of the state's workers' compensation statute. As of last Friday, required medical exams, work search compliance standards for supplemental income, and testing, training, and application requirements for designated doctors are now suspended until further notice.



Over the weekend, Utah Governor, Gary Herbert, signed into law HB 11. The bill lowers the threshold

for determining if an employee's intoxication at the time of injury is the major contributing cause of a workplace injury. Under Utah law, an employer may reduce or terminate benefits when a worker is found to have been intoxicated at the time of injury.

Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

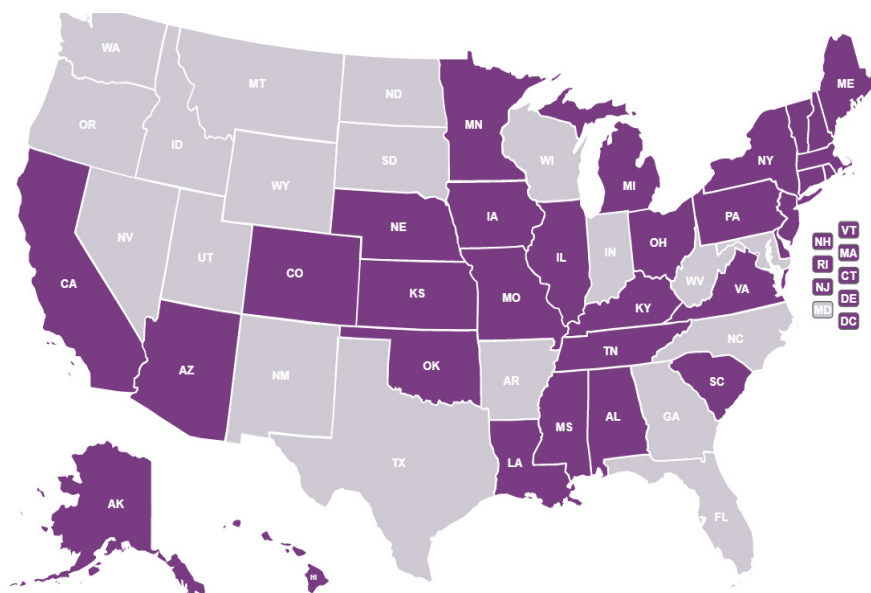
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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