

February 10, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On Tuesday, a [bill](#) was introduced in the House that would ensure workers comp coverage for mental illnesses associated with workplace trauma. The bill also creates a presumption for first responders that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was caused by the job. This presumption would mean an employer is responsible for showing that the trauma leading to PTSD took place when the employee was off-duty.



The North Carolina Industrial Commission [announced](#) the formation of a new Opioid Task Force to make recommendations for addressing the opioid problem in workers' comp. The Task Force was created after a recent Industrial Commission study, focusing on the implementation of a workers' comp formulary for state employees, found the opioid problem may be exacerbated by workers comp injuries.



The fate of the Grand Bargain Bills aimed at ending the nearly 2 year budget battle in Illinois has hit another road block. The Senate was aiming to pass all 13 bills by mid-week, but because of pushback, they still have not been voted on. Even if they make it out of the Senate, the House has made clear they have no intention of passing all the bills. The Grand Bargain bill package includes SB 12 which would reform the workers' comp system and establish a drug formulary. That bill has specifically drawn the [disapproval](#) of professional sports leagues, including the NFL and MLS, who believe a key provision of the bill leaves players unprotected.



The Governor has submitted a bill to the House, [HB 3786](#), that would require electronic prescribing for all controlled substance prescriptions and outlines the requirements for pharmacies. The bill does allow for a prescriber to forgo the e-prescribe requirement when sending a prescription to a pharmacy outside of Connecticut.



State of the States



This week, two bills targeting opioid prescriptions were introduced in the

Pennsylvania House. [HB 353](#) will require electronic prescribing for all opioid medications, an attempt by the legislature to reduce diversion through handwritten prescriptions. [HB 396](#) would require prescribers to query the PDMP for every patient, every time they prescribe a controlled substance. Current law only requires PDMP checks for first fills and when a prescriber has reason to believe a patient might be abusing medications.



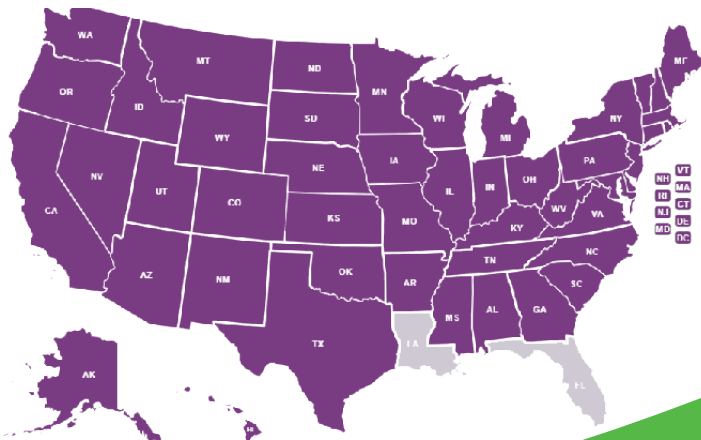
On Wednesday, a House Subcommittee, responsible for workers' comp, held another

[hearing](#) on possible workers' comp reforms in light of the 14.5% rate increase implemented late last year. At the hearing, several areas of possible reforms were discussed again, including changes to attorney's fees and removal of NCCI as the rate-setting apparatus. Opt-out, which had been briefly talked about earlier this year appears to have no support from employers, insurers or workers.

Article of Interest

A recent [report](#) found a possible link between opioids and amnesia, giving us new insight on how opioids can impact all parts of our bodies.

States in Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne and Danielle will be in Phoenix for legislative meetings Wednesday and Thursday, and then Jayne heads to San Dimas.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Jayne Kresac, Esq.
VP, Legal and Government Affairs
jkresac@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.809.2148

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Manager of Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.770.8047

