

May 26, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



After last week's attempt to push workers' comp through the Senate, all bills appear to have

stalled yet again as the Senate refocused its attention on passing a state budget. Meanwhile, in the House, [HB 2525](#), a workers' comp reform bill, was revived with an amendment that would add a restrictive drug formulary to the state's workers' comp system. The legislature has less than a week to go before adjournment and all sides remain far apart on key issues, including a budget.



[S 6436](#) was introduced last week and would allow a workers' comp claimant to use

any registered in-state pharmacy for their workers' comp claim prescriptions. The bill still allows employers to contract with pharmacies and encourage claimants to use those pharmacies but gives the claimant freedom to choose. The bill, which was referred to the Labor Committee last Thursday, has no co-sponsors and has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Committee.



The Commissioner of the FDA [announced](#) his plans for the organizations' approach to the nationwide opioid epidemic. Among his first steps is the establishment of an Opioid Policy Steering Committee to develop tools and strategies to tackle the epidemic, including exploration of education requirements for providers and limits on opioid prescriptions.



State of the States



On Wednesday, the Louisiana House passed [HB 592](#) which would establish a drug formulary for workers' comp. The bill lacks support from key players including labor, trial attorneys, providers, and even state regulators. Although it must still pass the Senate, the Governor has already signaled he will veto it if it comes to his desk. This week the Senate also passed [HB 490](#) to establish an Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention.



[SF 1293](#), which would have created a post-traumatic stress disorder presumption for first responders,

appears to have stalled in the last week of the Minnesota legislature. Several groups opposed the bill because it sidestepped the normal procedure for a workers' comp related bill which typically seek the Workers' Comp Advisory Council's approval before coming to the legislature.



The Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission amended the states 2017 fee

schedule to include guidelines for the prescribing of opioids. The guidelines include recommendations to avoid opioid treatment for chronic pain, limits acute pain treatment to three days, and consulting the PDMP before prescribing an opioid.

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

Jayne and Danielle will be in
the home office next week.

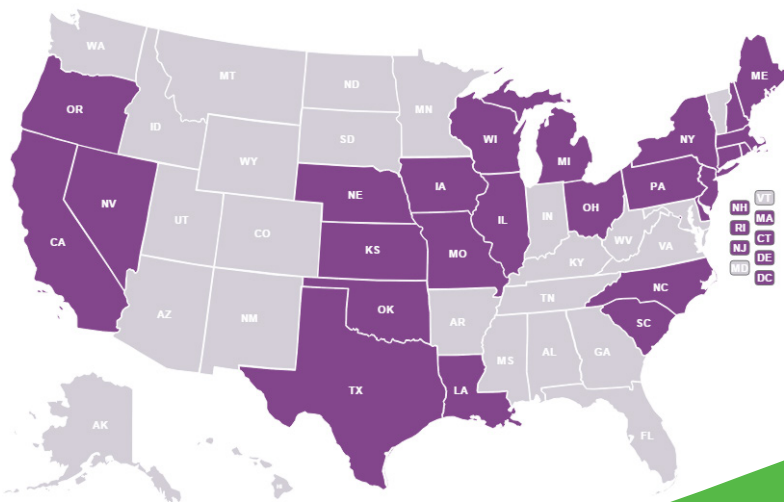


Questions, Concerns,
Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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

States in Session



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PO Box 338 Methuen, MA 01844

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