

July 29, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



A [request](#) to review the adequacy of the Florida workers' compensation system has been filed with the

United States Supreme Court. The petition, filed by attorney Daniel Stahl, is in response to the state's Supreme Court's refusal to rule on whether or not the current comp system is unconstitutional.



Lobbyists are already gearing up for the 2017 session. [Efforts](#) to pass legislation expanding

the South Carolina workers' comp system to include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment coverage for first responders are already afoot. The potential bill would also create a fund to help cover costs associated with the expanded coverage.



WCRI released eight state study [reports](#) regarding physician dispensing regulations. The studies look at Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Carolina and Tennessee, all states that implemented price-focused reforms. While initial regulations showed a decrease in average price per pill for physician dispensed drugs, by 2014, the trend reversed itself in nearly all of the states.





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With the legislature out on summer break, Governor Brown signed into law [SB 914](#), removing

any references to American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) in the Labor code. In 2009, the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) adopted medical treatment guidelines and utilized many provisions of ACOEM but those references are now out of date and caused confusion. When the legislature returns to work in August, they will resume discussion of all other workers' comp related bills, including increases penalties on administrators for failure to report data and restrictions on Utilization Review (UR) companies' receiving financial incentives.



The Texas Department of Insurance released a [report](#) on the impact of the state's drug formulary since

its implementation in 2011. The report finds that prescriptions for N-drugs fell by 77% and costs associated with N-drugs fell by 78%.



An Illinois Appellate Court [ruling](#) would allow an injured worker to receive wage-differential benefits on top of

their permanent total disability award. The ruling is expected to only increase costs in the state's workers' comp system, which is already the highest in the Midwest.



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

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

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Jayne Cannava, Esq.
VP, Legal and Government Affairs
jcannava@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

