

August 12, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) is working on [draft legislation](#) to address

concerns about the Utilization Review (UR) process in the state's workers' comp system. The legislation makes several changes to UR, including a prohibition on UR within 30 days of injury and limiting when liens can be filed. The bill language can either be added as amendment to a current piece of legislation, or the DIR will have to wait until the 2017 session to introduce the bill in full.



A new bill introduced last week, [SB 1348](#), would require a pharmacist, dispensing an opioid, to place

a label on the container stating, "Warning: This drug is highly addictive." The legislature is on recess until mid-September and will adjourn for the year before Thanksgiving, giving them just under two months to pass the legislation.



The National Governors' Association released its' [Road Map for States](#) on the opioid and heroin crisis. The report is the product of three years of work among 13 states. The report is designed to serve as a policy development tool for states, providing policy suggestions for addressing and combating the opioid epidemic.

One of the major focuses of the road map is expanding the use of PDMPs, including requirements of providers to query the system and increasing state interoperability.





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An Illinois policy group, the Illinois Policy Institute, issued a report last week proposing the adoption of

an opt-out system for Illinois' workers' comp program. The report titled, "[Fixing Illinois' Outdated Workers' Compensation System](#)," argues the current system fails to meet the needs of most workers by prioritizing the financial interests of lawyers and doctors over workers. The report argues an opt-out program like Texas' would give employers and employees more flexibility in establishing work schedules.



A new [lawsuit](#), filed by an Ohio lawyer, looks to challenge the state's law prohibiting attorneys from

soliciting injured workers who file claims with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The law was proposed by a group of bipartisan attorneys and passed in 2006.

Articles of Interest

A new DEA [report](#) found that counterfeit prescription pills entering the United States have fueled the country's opioid crisis.

The counterfeit pills, including deadly amounts of fentanyl, are linked to higher reports of fentanyl availability and overdose deaths.

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

Jayne will be in Washington, DC on Tuesday, and Danielle will be in the home office all week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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