

February 8, 2018

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



On Tuesday night, the Pennsylvania house voted 98-98 to reject [SB 936](#), a bill which would have established

a workers' comp drug formulary in the state. The bill, which was passed by the Senate back in October, was supported by carriers and employers as a means for addressing the state's opioid epidemic and reducing corruption in the state's workers' comp system. Democrats, labor unions, and claimant's attorneys opposed the bill arguing it was too broad and only worked to limit injured workers' access to needed treatment.



Business groups across the state are urging legislators to hold off on any potential workers' comp reform for another year. The

groups opposed [HB 7009](#) which would cap attorney's fees at \$150 per hour, arguing more data is needed from the impact of the 2016 state Supreme Court case that found attorney fee caps unconstitutional before they attempt to reform the workers' comp system. HB 7009 passed out of the House back in January and is now being considered by the Senate.



A bill to improve first responders access to mental health coverage under Utah's workers' comp

statute is making moves. [HB 209](#) was voted out of the House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee with a 9-1 vote and is now being considered by the full House. The bill would allow a first responder to claim a mental health injury under the workers' comp statute if they are diagnosed with a mental health condition after becoming a first responder.



On Monday, [S 1762](#) was introduced in the New Jersey Senate. The bill would require electronic

prescribing for all prescriptions in New Jersey beginning one year after the passage of the bill.





# State of the States



A Democratic Senator introduced a bill to give injured workers more choice in their treatment

in Iowa. [SF 2185](#) would allow a worker to designate their primary care physician, who has treated them before, as their treating physician for any potential on-the-job injuries. The bill would require the employee to designate the doctor before an injury occurs and inform the employer of their selection.



[SB 369](#), a bill to adopt the ODG workers' comp drug formulary, was passed out of the Senate with

a vote of 42-6. The bill calls for the adoption of the new drug formulary by January 1, 2019 and is now before the Indiana House for consideration before the end of session in mid-March.

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

Danielle will be in the home office next week.



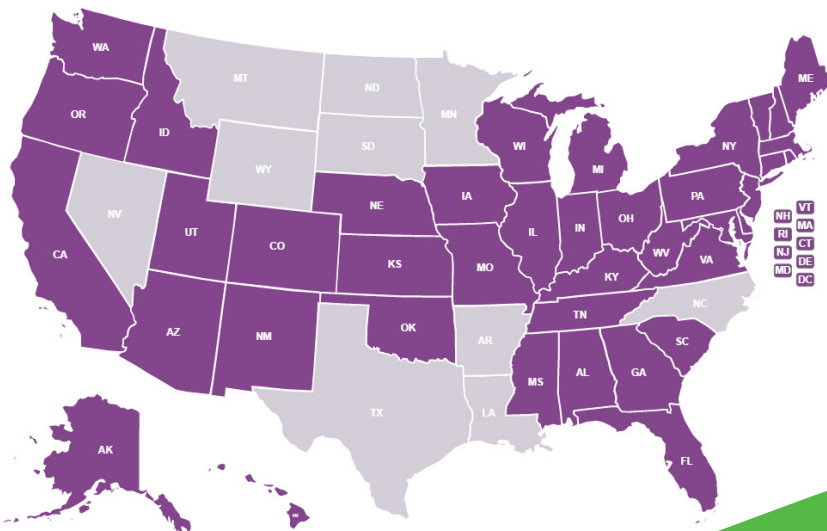
### Article of Interest

A [look](#) at a physician's perspective when working with an opioid-addicted patient.

## States in Session

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## Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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