

April 13, 2018

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Over the last few days, the Hawaii House has passed two pieces of legislation that impact workers' comp. First,

[SB 2364](#) unanimously passed the House on Friday and prohibits employers from denying a workers' comp claim without cause and requires employers to notify providers of a billing dispute within 30 days or assume full liability for the treatments. Also last week, the House passed [SB 2244](#), which requires providers to execute written consent agreements with injured workers before prescribing opioids.



On Monday, the Tennessee House passed an amended version of [HB 1993](#). The bill would now require all health care prescribers

to issue electronic prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances by July 1, 2020. The bill makes several exemptions to the requirement, including sending a prescription to a pharmacy located outside of the state. The Senate now has two weeks to consider the bill before the end of session.



Over the week, several House and Senate Committees held hearings regarding the opioid epidemic. The goal of many of the committees is to bring a comprehensive opioid package to the floor of the United States House by the Memorial Day weekend. Between the committees there are upwards of fifty bills targeting the opioid epidemic being considered, including a Medicaid PDMP, national fill limits, and increased funding for opioid treatment.





State of the States



On Monday night, Texas Workers' Comp Commissioner Ryan Brannan announced his resignation

effective May 1. Brannan has served as Commissioner since 2014 under both Governor Rick Perry and Governor Greg Abbott. A replacement has not yet been named.



HB 2549, clarifying opioid dosage limits, was sent to the Governor's desk for his signature this week. The

bill allows prescribers to issue prescriptions that exceed 90 MEDs if a physician who is board-certified in pain agrees with the higher dose.

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

Danielle will be in Harrisburg, PA on Monday and Tuesday next week.



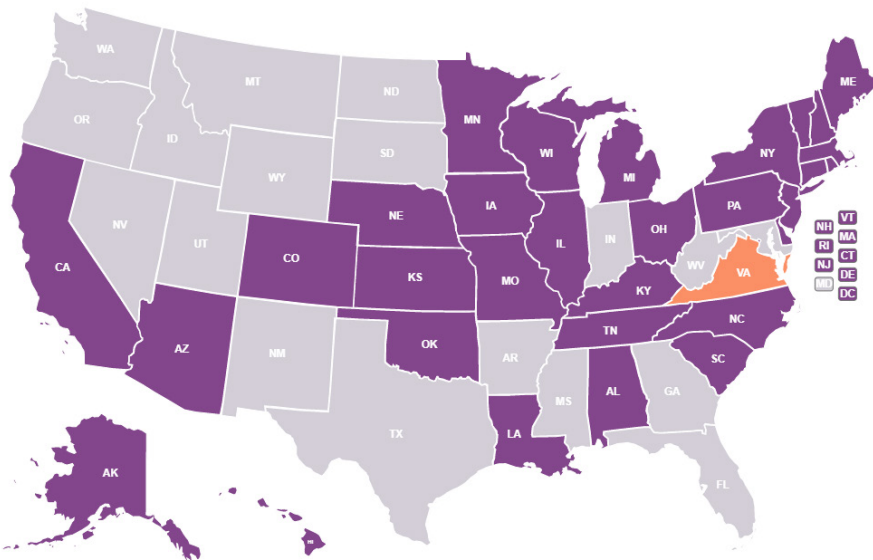
Article of Interest

Late last week, the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome M. Adams, issued a national advisory urging more Americans to learn how to use naloxone, a drug used to prevent overdosing on opioids.

States in Session

Powered by **FiscalNote**

■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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



PO Box 338 Methuen, MA 01844

The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®