

November 11, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On Tuesday, California passed Proposition 64 to legalize recreational marijuana, 20

years after becoming the first state to legalize medical marijuana. In anticipation of the decision, the California Worker's Compensation Institute publish a [report](#) of the impact of legalizing marijuana on workers' comp in California. The report examines several issues including the federal illegality of marijuana and California law that prohibits insurers from reimbursing for medical marijuana. California isn't alone though - on Tuesday four states passed medical marijuana initiatives and four states approved recreational marijuana, decisions that will no doubt continue to push workers' comp industry conversations about drug-free workplaces, medical treatment, and coverage.



The Texas Department of Insurance released a [new report](#) this week examining physician

participation in the state's workers' comp system. Since 2000, the total number of participating physicians increased 3 percent each year, with 79 percent of participating physicians still participating the following year. While primary care physicians have the lowest retention rate, specialists like orthopedic surgeons have a nearly 90% retention rate since 2005. The study also found an increase in injured workers receiving more timely care.





State of the States



On Tuesday's ballot in Colorado, voters overwhelmingly rejected Amendment 69

which would have created a universal health care system for the state, which would cover all medical treatment, including medical care for injured workers. The measure, which would have cost the state \$36 billion a year, is not the first time a state has considered a single-payer system but it was the first time such a system would have included coverage for workplace injuries.



This past Tuesday voters in 12 states made a decision about their Governors. Although the

race in North Carolina has yet to be called, the rest of the results are in and seven states, including New Hampshire, have new Governors, and in three states the party controlling the Governor's mansion flipped.

Meanwhile, in state legislative races, California democrats held on to their super majority in the state house, and Illinois Democrats lost a few seats but remain the majority in both legislative houses. Republicans in Arizona, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire maintained their control of the legislature.

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

Jayne and Danielle will be in Florida for the Republican Governors Association Annual Conference.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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