**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – April 4, 2025**

**STATE AFFAIRS WORKGROUP**

Arnold Baskies, MD, FACS (NJ); Ali Kasraeian, MD, FACS (FL); Kevin Koo, MD, FACS (MN); David Santos, MD, FACS (TX); and Kelly Swords, MD, FACS (CA). The Workgroup plays a critical role in identifying state advocacy priorities, setting new policy objectives, and evaluating state advocacy grant applications among other duties.

**ACS STATE AFFAIRS PRIORITY ISSUES**

* Trauma System Funding and Development
* Cancer Screening, Testing, and Treatment
* Insurance and Administrative Burden
* Professional Liability
* Criminalization of Physician Care
* Access to Surgical Care
* Health Equity

For more information regarding ACS State Affairs Policy Priorities in your state, please contact Catherine Hendricks, State Affairs Manager, at chendricks@facs.org or Cory Bloom, State Affairs Associate, at cbloom@facs.org. To view a complete list of bills ACS State Affairs is tracking, visit our online [State Legislative Tracker.](https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/QGjJBFIfORzJNAtlNvfp/)

**ACS GRANT PROGRAM**

State Chapters are eligible to apply for ACS State Advocacy Grants and may use funds towards their annual state advocacy day, to hire a lobbyist, or other relevant advocacy functions such as travel costs for members, catering, venue rentals, printing, and more. To learn more information regarding the ACS State Advocacy Grants, apply [here](https://www.facs.org/advocacy/state-legislation/chapter-state-advocacy-grant-program/).

**STATE ADVOCACY DAYS**

California: April 9, Sacramento, California

District of Columbia: May 17, District of Columbia

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

State legislative session dates can be found [here](https://www.multistate.us/resources/2025-legislative-session-dates).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ALABAMA**

[HB 515](https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/HB515-int.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Mark Shirey (R), HB 515 requires human oversight in coverage decisions where artificial intelligence (AI) is used; requires health insurers to disclose the use of AI in coverage determinations; allows enrollees who claim injury due to an insurer's use of AI to file a civil action for damages. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[SB 294](https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/SB294-int.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Arthur Orr (R), SB 294 requires prior authorization (PA) decisions to be made by health care professionals; standard PA requests must be responded to within 72 hours, 24 hours for an urgent request; if PA requests are not responded to within proper timeframes they are automatically approved; requires health insurers confer gold card status on health care professionals who consistently meet medical necessary criteria, achieving an approval rate of 90% or more on a service. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1316](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1316%2FHB1316030620251007.pdf) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Fred Allen (D), HB 1316 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing lung cancer screenings. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law March 25.

[HB 1916](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1916.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Mary Bentley (R), HB 1916 amends state law to include gender-affirming interventions on minors as a basis for malpractice claims which can result in punitive or compensatory damages. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 601](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB601.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Bart Hester (R), SB 601 creates a pathway for international medical graduates (IMGs) to acquire licensure; IMGs must have an active, unrestricted license to practice in a foreign country, and have practiced medicine actively in the four years preceding their application; applicants must have their credentials evaluated by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; must commit to a two year period of practice in an underserved or health professional shortage area and have a full-time employment offer. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

[SB 626](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB626.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Missy Irvin (R), SB 626 requires health insurers to reimburse licensed ambulatory surgical centers at rates no less than 90% of those paid to hospital-based facilities for equivalent services; prohibits health insurers from increasing cost-sharing or reducing reimbursement rates on these facilities unless specific financial conditions are met. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance and Commerce Committee.

**CONNECTICUT**

[SB 806](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/FC/PDF/2025SB-00806-R000372-FC.PDF) – Medicaid

Introduced by Senator Martin Looney (D), SB 806 expands Medicaid coverage for emergency medical conditions, including active cancer treatment. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Human Services Committee.

[SB 1318](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1318/BillText/c1/PDF) – Trauma Funding

Introduced by Senator Erin Grall (R), SB 1318 provides financial support for certified trauma centers by imposing fines on drivers caught using handheld devices while driving; 50% of funds created by the fine are allocated equally among all Level I, II, and pediatric trauma centers; the remaining 50% is distributed among these centers based on volume of trauma cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

**FLORIDA**

[HB 5301](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/5301/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Robert Andrade (R), HB 5301 requires the state cancer collaborative to annually develop and submit a plan to expand grant opportunities for specialty hospitals for children and analyzing pediatric cancer rates. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Budget Committee.

[HB 6017](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/6017/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Dana Trabulsy (R), HB 6017 removes the prohibition on recovery of noneconomic wrongful death damages in medical negligence cases by the decedent’s children who are 25 years of age or older and parents of a deceased child who was 25 years of age or older at the time of death. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SPB 2500](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/2500/BillText/pb/PDF) – Trauma Funding

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee, SPB 2500 establishes a 17 percent add-on payment for Level I trauma centers, an 11 percent add-on payment for Level II trauma centers, and a 4 percent add-on payment for pediatric trauma centers; provides $1,000,000 allocation for The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis-Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Research. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

[SPB 2514](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/2514/BillText/pb/PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee, SPB 2514 establishes the Cancer Innovation Fund to support innovative cancer research and treatment models; prioritizes expanding screening efforts and treatment models in underserved areas. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

**GEORGIA**

[SB 91](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/238631) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Blake Tillery (R), SB 91 requires health insurers to provide coverage for annual prostate cancer screenings for men at high risk. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[SB 367](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/237950) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Senator Bill Cowsert (R), SB 367 exempts cancer treatment facilities from certificate of need requirements. The bill was introduced in the Senate and read.

**HAWAII**

[HCR 35](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/HCR35_.PDF) – Biomarker

Introduced by Representative Cory Chun (D), HCR 35 requests the state auditor to make an assessment of the impact of mandating insurance coverage for biomarker testing. The resolution was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

[HCR 36](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/HCR36_.PDF) – Colorectal Cancer

Introduced by Representative Cory Chun (D), HCR 36 requests the state auditor to make an assessment of the social and financial impacts of mandating health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screenings. The resolution was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

[SCR 28](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/SCR28_.PDF) – Colorectal Caner

Introduced by Senator Brandon Elefante (D), SCR 28 requests the state auditor to make an assessment of the social and financial impacts of mandating health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screenings. The resolution was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SCR 29](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/SCR29_.PDF) – Biomarker

Introduced by Senator Brandon Elefante (D), SCR 29 requests the state auditor to make an assessment of the impact of mandating health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. The resolution was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**IOWA**

[SF 618](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SF618.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee, SF 618 establishes a rural health care funding model; creates a health care professional incentive program to attract and retain professionals in underserved areas. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

**KENTUCKY**

[HB 421](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/hb421/bill.pdf) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Amy Neighbors (R), HB 421 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing colorectal cancer screenings. Governor Andy Beshear (D) signed the bill into law April 2.

**MAINE**

[LD 459](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0192&item=1&snum=132) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Glenn Curry (D). LD 459 proposes to regulate the use of prior authorization for health care provider services. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health Coverage.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[HD 3960](https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/ma/194th/bills/MAB00071775/) – Hospital

Introduced by Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian (D), HD 3960 prohibits any contract or agreement from including terms that restrict a physician from providing testimony in administrative or judicial hearings, including professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[S 699](http://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S699.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Brendan Crighton (D), S 699 prohibits health insurers from making unilateral changes to contracts with health care providers; prohibits termination without cause. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 706](http://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S706.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator John Cronin (D), S 706 requires the development of a list of services eligible for real-time automated approvals when clinical information submitted electronically by a provider demonstrates the patient meets the medically necessary criteria; requires health insurers who require prior authorization to implement an automated process for real-time approvals. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 763](http://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S763.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Senator Adam Gomez (D), S 763 requires coverage and reimbursement for e-consults, e-visits, and remote patient monitoring; requires parity in prior authorization requirements between in-person and telehealth services; and allows telehealth services to be performed by clinicians located out of state. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 1269](http://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1269.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Bruce Tarr (R), S 1269 mandates the creation of a system for tracking professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**MINNESOTA**

[SF 3123](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3123&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Jim Abeler (R), SF 3123 establishes a pilot program to evaluate the efficacy, costs, and benefits of using retrospective utilization review compared to prior authorization. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the State and Local Government Committee.

**MISSOURI**

[SB 68](https://www.senate.mo.gov/25info/pdf-bill/House/HCS-SB/SB0068.pdf) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Senator Mike Henderson (R), SB 68 requires the development of a traumatic blood loss protocol and the placement of bleeding control kits in schools; schools must designate a staff member who annually receives training in the usage of the kit; provides Good Samaritan protections for school staff who use a bleeding control kit in good faith. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Education Committee.

**MONTANA**

[HB 195](https://bills.legmt.gov/%22%20%5Cl%20%22/laws/bill/2/LC0417?open_tab=sum) – Professional Liability **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Wendy McKamey (R), HB 195 increases the cap for professional liability cases from $250,000 to $300,000 with annual increments. Governor Greg Gianforte (R) signed the bill into law March 27.

**NEW JERSEY**

[S 1548](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/S2000/1548_R1.PDF) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Shirley Turner (D), S 1548 allows students to use sunscreen and sun-protective clothing without medical documentation. Governor Phil Murphy (D) signed the bill into law March 31.

**NEW YORK**

[A 7515](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7515) – Medicaid

Introduced by Assemblymember Gary Pretlow (D), A 7515 allocates $1,111,204,000 for Medicaid in the state. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

[A 7572](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7572) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas (D), A 7572 requires health insurers to provide coverage for mammograms and breast tomosynthesis for individuals with a prior history of breast cancer or those with a first-degree relative with such a history. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 5867](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S5867) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Andrew Gounardes (D), S 5867 mandates anesthesia administration performed by certified registered nurse anesthetists must be done under the supervision of an anesthesiologist, operating surgeon, oral surgeon, or podiatrist who is physically present. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[S 7036](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S7036) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Senator Joseph Griffo (R), S 7036 allows municipalities to offer tax exemptions for clinicians purchasing homes in designated shortage areas. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[S 7070](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S7070) – Medicaid **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Liz Krueger (D), S 7070 allocates $1,111,204,000 for Medicaid in the state. Governor Kathy Hochul (D) signed the bill into law April 1.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

[H 567](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H567v0.pdf) – Biomarker

Introduced by Representative Diane Wheatley (R), H 567 requires health insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[H 672](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H672v0.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Erin Pare (R), H 672 allows physician assistants with over 4,000 hours of clinical experience to practice without supervision. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[H 685](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H685v0.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Representative Ray Jeffers (D), H 685 allocates $5 million dollars to the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation to improve health care access in underserved areas. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[H 696](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H696v0.pdf) – Truth in Advertising

Introduced by Representative Larry Potts (R), H 696 requires health care practitioners to clearly identify their type of license, certification, or registration in any advertisement; prohibits deceptive or misleading representations about a practitioner's qualifications; restricts unlicensed individuals from using certain medical titles. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[H 700](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H700v0.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Abe Jones (D), H 700 allows previously time-barred wrongful death or injury claims against health care providers for incidents after March 1, 2020, excluding COVID-19 cases, to be filed within a year after enactment. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

[SB 2249](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/regular/documents/25-0138-04000.pdf) – Step-Therapy **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Jeff Barta (R), SB 2249 provides exceptions to step-therapy protocols, including when a required drug is contraindicated, likely to cause adverse reactions, or expected to be ineffective based on a patient's clinical characteristics, or if a patient has previously experienced ineffectiveness or a positive outcome with a different drug; requires health insurers to respond to exception requests within 72 hours for urgent requests, five calendar days for non-urgent requests, with automatic approval if no response is given. Governor Kelly Armstrong (R) signed the bill into law March 31.

**OHIO**

[SB 164](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/sb164/00_IN/pdf/) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Al Cutrona (R), SB 164 requires health insurers to report annually on their usage of artificial intelligence (AI) based algorithms; prohibits health insurers from making care decisions based solely on AI results; any decision to deny, delay, or modify health care services using AI must include an explanation. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

**OREGON**

[SB 476](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB476/A-Engrossed) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Kayse Jama (D), SB 476 requires licensing boards to issue limited licenses to qualified international physicians; requires the holder of a provisional license to practice under the supervision of a licensed physician for four years prior to applying for full licensure. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

[HB 755](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HB0755/PN0779) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Perry Warren (D), HB 755 requires health insurers to provide no-cost-sharing coverage for preventive health care services, including cancer screenings. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

[HR 102](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HR0102/PN0884) – Colorectal Cancer

Introduced by Representative Natalie Mihalek (R), HR 102 designates March as colorectal cancer awareness month. The resolution was introduced in the House and referred to the Human Services Committee.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

[HB 1071](https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/283805.pdf) – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Brian Mulder (R), HB 1071 changes the practice criteria for physician assistants from a supervisory to a collaborative model. Governor Larry Rhoden (R) signed the bill into law March 31.

**TENNESSEE**

[SB 1063](https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/SB1063.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Shane Reeves (R), SB 1063 mandates health care providers must inform patients within seven calendar days if they have communicated with the patient's health insurer to seek additional information necessary for processing a prior authorization request; requires a health insurer to notify enrollees if a health care provider fails to submit requested additional information within the specified seven-day timeframe. Governor Bill Lee (R) signed the bill into law April 3.

**TEXAS**

[HB 3588](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03588I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Elizabeth Campos (D), HB 3588 mandates health care facilities and practitioners provide clear identification and information about non-physician practitioners and their supervising physicians; prohibits misleading advertising regarding practitioners' qualifications and imposes penalties for violations, ranging from $100 to $10,000 per violation. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[SB 2128](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02128I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Donna Campbell (R), SB 2128 requires anesthesiologist assistants to work under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist who is physically present and able to respond to emergencies. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**UTAH**

[HB 503](https://le.utah.gov/Session/2025/bills/enrolled/HB0503.pdf) – Professional Liability **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Katy Hall (R), HB 503 requires claimants to submit an affidavit of merit in professional liability cases; caps the total amount a claimant can receive in damages at $1,000,000 except in cases involving death. Governor Spencer Cox (R) signed the bill March 27.

[SB 274](https://le.utah.gov/Session/2025/bills/enrolled/SB0274.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator John Johnson (R), SB 274 prohibits health insurers from modifying existing prior authorization (PA) requirements without a 30-day notice; once PA is granted it cannot be revoked; mandates appeals of adverse determinations must be reviewed by qualified medical professionals; eliminates PA for emergency health care; health insurers must report annually on the percentage of PAs processed beyond a week and provide statistics on PA requests on their website. Governor Spencer Cox (R) signed the bill March 27.

**VIRGINIA**

[SB 917](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013974.PDF) – Collective Bargaining **VETOED; VETO OVERRIDE FAILED IN SENATE**

Introduced by Senator Scott Surovell (D), SB 917 establishes a framework for collective bargaining for public employees. Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) vetoed the bill March 24. The Senate sustained the Governor’s veto April 2.

**WISCONSIN**

[SB 157](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/sb157.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Cory Tomczyk (R), SB 157 prohibits gender transition medical interventions for individuals under 18 years of age; the state licensure board can revoke the license of any health care professional who violates this prohibition. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Government Operations Committee.