**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – April 18, 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**

District of Columbia: May 17, District of Columbia

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

Legislative adjournments: Arkansas (4/16), Georgia (4/4); Idaho (4/4); Kansas (4/11); Maryland (4/7); Mississippi (4/3); New Mexico (3/22); South Dakota (3/31); Utah (3/7); Virginia (2/22); West Virginia (4/12), and Wyoming (3/6).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ALABAMA**

[HB 557](https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/HB557-int.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Kelvin Datcher (D), HB 557 requires health insurers to report annually on denied coverage requests and make coverage criteria accessible to enrollees and health care providers; requires decisions on standard prior authorization requests within 72 hours and 24 hours for urgent requests; determinations must be made by licensed healthcare professionals. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1859](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1859.pdf) – Insurance **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Ryan Rose (R), HB 1859 requires health insurers to provide medical and surgical benefits for a minimum hospital stay of 48 hours for any patient receiving a mastectomy; requires health insurers to provide coverage for breast reconstruction surgery, including surgery on the non-affected breast for symmetry, prostheses, and treatment for complications; prohibits insurers from denying or limiting coverage. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the bill into law April 14.

[SB 83](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB83%2FSB83031920251421.pdf) – Insurance **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Joshua Bryant (R), SB 83 mandates health insurers cover breast reconstruction surgeries; requires prior authorization for breast reconstruction surgeries; establishes a minimum reimbursement rate for out-of-network providers. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the bill into law April 7.

[SB 123](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB123%2FSB123021720251119.pdf) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Greg Leding (D), SB 123 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the bill into law April 14.

**COLORADO**

[SB 296](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_296_01.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Dafna Jenet (D), SB 296 requires health insurers provide no cost-sharing coverage for preventative, diagnostic, and supplemental breast cancer examinations. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**DELAWARE**

[SB 6](https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/142107) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Bryan Townsend (D), SB 6 requires health insurers to provide notice six months before enacting any changes to utilization review terms; requires adverse determination reviews to be made by a licensed physician in the same or similar medical specialty as the requesting physician; sets a three day response for non-urgent electronic requests, 24 hours for an urgent request. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking, Business, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

**ILLINOIS**

[HB 1598](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/HB/PDF/10400HB1598eng.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Barbara Hernandez (D), HB 1598 mandates certification for surgical technologists and their duties, including the preparation of an operating room and the sterile operating field. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Rules Committee.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[HD 3333](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3333.Html) – Student Loan Repayment

Introduced by Representative Rita Mendes (D), HD 3333 proposes a program for any physician licensed in the state to be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement for their undergraduate or medical school tuition paid or student loans incurred. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

**NEW JERSEY**

[A 5542](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A6000/5542_I1.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Lisa Swain (D), A 5542 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 7976](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7976) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Assemblymember Patrick Carroll (D), A 7976 establishes penalties for the intentional destruction, mutilation, or significant alteration of medical records; parties involved in a professional liability case and engaged in such acts face a civil penalty of at least $1,000 per act, along with compensatory and punitive damages. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[A 7981](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7981) – Utilization Review

Introduced by Assemblymember John McDonald (D), A 7981 requires hospitals to provide electronic access to medical records for insurers to facilitate utilization reviews. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 7988](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7988) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Assemblymember Amy Paulin (D), A 7988 allows physician assistants to practice independently after having practiced for more than 6,000 hours in primary care or if they are employed by a health system or hospital and given privileges. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

**OREGON**

[HB 5049](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB5049/Enrolled) – Trauma System Funding **ENACTED**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee, HB 5049 allocates $331,824 to the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program. Governor Tina Kotek (D) signed the bill into law April 16.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

[SB 160](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/SB0160/PN0529) – Cancer

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee, SB 160 is an appropriations bill allots $1,828,000 for breast cancer screenings; $2,563,000 for cancer screenings; $2 million for regional cancer institutes. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[SB 976](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0976.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Frank Ciccone (D), SB 976 requires cosmetic medical procedures, including surgeries, to be performed or supervised by licensed medical professionals. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**WISCONSIN**

[SB 214](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/sb214.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Senator Bob Stafsholt (R), SB 214 allows out-of-state health care professionals to register with the board of medicine to provide telehealth services in the state; prohibits in-person services without state credentials. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

**WASHINGTON**

[SB 5118](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5118-S.SL.pdf) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Javier Valdez (D), SB 5118 allows the issuance of limited licenses to international medical graduates who are certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, have passed the first two steps of the US Medical Licensing Examination, and have undergone a background check. Governor Bob Ferguson (D) signed the bill into law April 4.

[SB 5810](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5810.pdf) – Trauma Funding

Introduced by Senator Chris Gildon (R), SB 5810 is an appropriations bill; provides over $3 million to the traumatic brain injury fund; appropriates $15 million to trauma care systems account. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.