**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – May 2, 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); Indiana (4/24); Kansas (4/11); Kentucky (3/28); Maryland (4/7); Mississippi (4/3); Montana (4/30); New Mexico (3/22); South Dakota (3/31); Tennessee (4/22); Utah (3/7); Virginia (2/22); Washington (4/27); West Virginia (4/12), and Wyoming (3/6).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1700](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1700%2FHB1700040220251144.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Brandon Achor (R), HB 1700 removes the name of the reviewing physician from adverse determination notices while disclosing their telephone number; a reviewing physician must disclose their name and license information to a health care professional appealing a determination. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

**CALIFORNIA**

[SCR 29](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SCR29&version=20250SCR2997CHP) – Cancer ADOPTED

Introduced by Senator Jerry McNerney (D), SCR 29 designates March 2025 as colorectal cancer awareness month. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee. The resolution was adopted by the Senate April 29.

**COLORADO**

[SB 318](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_318_01.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Robert Rodriguez (D), SB 318 redefines algorithmic discrimination to align with local, state, and federal anti-discrimination laws; artificial intelligence systems providing recommendations requiring a health care provider to take action are not considered high-risk if they do not make consequential decisions. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Business, Labor, and Technology Committee.

**GEORGIA**

[SB 68](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/236944) – Professional Liability **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator John Kennedy (R), SB 68 specifies when and how noneconomic damages can be introduced in court; limits recovery of damages for medical expenses to amounts actually paid; allows for a bifurcated trial in cases involving bodily injury or wrongful death. Governor Brian Kemp (R) signed the bill into law April 21.

[SB 69](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/238603) – Professional Liability **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator John Kennedy (R), SB 69 mandates the registration of litigation financiers and prohibits affiliations with foreign entities; prohibits financial interests in litigation-related services; requires litigation financers to indemnify plaintiffs and claimants. Governor Brian Kemp (R) signed the bill into law April 21.

**LOUISIANA**

[HB 291](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1409159) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Jack Galle (R), HB 291 amends existing law to change the statute of limitations for both survival and wrongful death actions to one year from the date of death or two years from the date the injury was sustained, whichever is longer. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Civil Law and Procedure Committee.

[HB 622](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1409986) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Stephanie Hilferty (R), HB 622 requires health insurers and Medicaid coverage for histotripsy procedures for liver cancer treatment. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**MAINE**

[LD 1803](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0702&item=1&snum=132) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Stacy Brenner (D), LD 1803 allows optometrists to perform surgery on and around the eye as well as injections in and around the eye; optometrists must meet credentialing requirements established by the state board of optometry. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

[LD 1830](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1225&item=1&snum=132) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Barbara Bagshaw (R), LD 1830 establishes a pilot program for early cancer detection screenings for firefighters. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[H 4044](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H4044) – Tuition Reimbursement

Introduced by Representative Rita Mendes (D), H 4044 proposes a program for any licensed physician to be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement for their undergraduate, medical school tuition paid, or student loans incurred. The bill was introduced and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

**MICHIGAN**

[HB 4399](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billintroduced/House/pdf/2025-HIB-4399.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative David Prestin (R), HB 4399 allows the board of nursing to grant a specialty certification to advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) permitting them to prescribe controlled substances without physician delegation; allows a CRNA to work independently after they have practiced for three years or more and worked in a health care facility for a minimum of 4,000 hours. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Policy Committee.

[SB 268](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2025-SIB-0268.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Jeff Irwin (D), SB 268 allows the board of nursing to grant a specialty certification to advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) permitting them to prescribe controlled substances without physician delegation; allows a certified registered nurse anesthetist to work independently after they have practiced for three years or more and worked in a health care facility for a minimum of 4,000 hours. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Regulatory Affairs Committee.

**OKLAHOMA**

[HR 1022](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20FLR/HFLR/HR1022%20HFLR.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Cyndi Munson (D), HR 1022 designates the second week of May as lung cancer action week. The resolution was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[SR 17](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SRES/SR17%20INT.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Brenda Stanley (R), SR 17 designates the second week in May as lung cancer awareness week. The resolution was introduced in the Senate and is pending referral to a committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[H 6254](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H6254.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Representative Brandon Voas (D), H 6254 requires Medicaid coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Finance Committee.

[SR 994](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0994.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Melissa Murray (D), SR 994 designates May 2025 as national skin cancer awareness month. The resolution was introduced in the Senate and is pending referral to a committee.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

[H 4383](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4383_20250423.htm) – Medicaid

Introduced by Representative Wendell Jones (D), H 4383 expands Medicaid; establishes a Medicaid stability fund to mitigate the impact of federal Medicaid funding reductions. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

**TEXAS**

[HB 879](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00879E.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative James Frank (R), HB 879 creates a licensure pathway for veterans who served as physicians to obtain a license to practice in-state; applicants are required to have left service within the past year, served on active duty, treated military personnel or veterans, and honorably discharged. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

**WISCONSIN**

[AB 212](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/ab212.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Representative Nate Gustafson (R), AB 212 allows out-of-state health care providers to register for telehealth services in the state; providers must have an active and unencumbered license in another state, no disciplinary actions in the last five years, and a designated agent for service of process in state. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.