**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – April 11, 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](mailto:chendricks@facs.org) or Cory Bloom, State Affairs Associate, at [cbloom@facs.org](mailto: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**

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

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1091](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1091%2FHB1091031220251528.pdf) – Trauma System **ENACTED**

Introduced by the Joint Budget Committee, HB 1091 appropriates $26.2 million for the trauma system. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 10.

[HB 1300](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1300%2FHB1300031320251015.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Lee Johnson (R), HB 1300 mandates health insurers disclose all prior authorization requirements, clinical criteria, and restrictions on their website. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 10.

[HB 1301](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1301%2FHB1301031320250957.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Lee Johnson (R), HB 1301 requires health insurers to provide written notice to physicians who are exempt from prior authorization (PA) for qualifying services; the PA exemption is valid for at least twelve months, evaluated every six months; insurers cannot deny or reduce payments for services, unless there is evidence of misrepresentation or failure to perform the service. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 10.

[HB 1930](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1930%2FHB1930040820250956.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Jeff Wardlaw (R), HB 1930 increases health insurer reimbursement levels for health care providers in a phased approach, reaching 100% of the equivalent Medicare reimbursement by January 1, 2030. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**DELAWARE**

[SB 104](https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/142095) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Senator Marie Pinkney (D), SB 104 requires at least six bleeding control kits in visible and accessible locations in high occupancy public buildings; property managers must inspect and restock the kits annually; provides Good Samaritan protection. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.

**GEORGIA**

[HB 928](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/239274) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Inga Willis (D), HB 928 prohibits health insurers from requiring utilization review for dense breast tissue ultrasounds deemed medically necessary by physicians due to. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**LOUISIANA**

[HB 575](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404359) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Lauren Ventrella (R), HB 575 extends liability to anyone involved in performing, aiding, or abetting an abortion; increases the time frame for initiating legal action from three to five years after the discovery of damage; recoverable damages include court costs, attorney fees, statutory damages, general damages, and punitive damages. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Civil Law and Procedure Committee.

[HB 629](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404664) – Informed Consent

Introduced by Representative Jack Galle (R), HB 629 requires health care providers to obtain informed consent from patients or authorized individuals before administering any medical intervention, except in emergencies; violations of the act can result in statutory damages of at least $5,000 per violation. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

[SB 108](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1403077) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Gregory Miller (R), SB 108 reduces the percentage of recoverable medical expenses in civil actions awarded to claimants from 40 percent to 30 percent of the difference between the billed and paid medical expenses by health insurers or Medicare; allows for the discovery of whether medical expenses were paid by insurance before trial; removes the $10,000 limitation for jury trials and reduces the required cash deposit for a jury trial from $5,000 to $4,000. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 129](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1403788) – Proton Therapy

Introduced by Senator Thomas Pressly (R), SB 129 requires health insurers to provide coverage for proton therapy for cancer patients. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[SB 150](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404169) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Kirk Talbot (R), SB 150 repeals existing provisions limiting a claimant's recovery of medical expenses paid by health insurers; establishes the introduction of admissible evidence to establish the basis for medical expense awards, including the amount billed, amount paid, premiums paid, agreement with third parties, and expert testimony. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 182](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404481) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Kirk Talbot (R), SB 182 allows the suspension of Medicaid prior authorization for cancer care during declared state emergencies. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

[SB 231](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1404726) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Mike Reese (R), SB 231 requires recoverable medical expenses to be based on the amount paid rather than the amount billed; allows any party to introduce evidence of billed and paid amounts to establish accurate medical expense awards in professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**MAINE**

[LD 1496](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0980&item=1&snum=132) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Samuel Zager (D), LD 1496 extends the validity of prior authorizations (PA) for chronic conditions for either one year or for the duration of the treatment, whichever is longer; prohibits health insurers from restricting coverage for services or prescriptions that received PA under a previous plan within 90 days of enrollment in a new plan. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage Committee.

[LD 1502](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0986&item=1&snum=132) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Matt Moonen (D), LD 1502 requires health insurers to provide no cost sharing prostate cancer screenings when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage Committee.

**MARYLAND**

[HB 1308](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/BudgetFiscal/2025RS-HB1308-REIN.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Delegate Tiffany Alston (D), HB 1308 provides violent crimes committed in medical facilities constitute a felony; offenders face an additional penalty of up to 10 years of imprisonment. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 1010](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/BudgetFiscal/2025RS-SB1010-REIN.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Anthony Muse (D), SB 1010 provides violent crimes committed in medical facilities constitute a felony; offenders face an additional penalty of up to 10 years of imprisonment. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[HD 4542](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4542) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative John Gaskey (R), HD 4542 prohibits health care providers from administering medical procedures or medications for gender re-assignment for individuals under 19 who are still in secondary school; adults 18 and older, who have graduated from secondary school, must participate in 12 months of mental health therapy before any surgical procedure; violations may result in fines, license suspension, or permanent revocation, and potential imprisonment. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

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

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

[SD 2808](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD2808) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Cindy Friedman (D), SD 2808 prohibits state or local agencies from cooperating with out-of-state investigations into legally protected health care services; ensures health care practitioners involvement in legally protected health care services cannot be used against them in legal proceedings. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**MINNESOTA**

[HF 3151](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF3151&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Shane Mekeland (R), HF 3151 prohibits gender-affirming medical care for minors; violations can result in fines, license revocation, or imprisonment. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[SF 3306](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3306&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Alice Mann (D), SF 3306 prohibits prior authorization (PA) for medications for antineoplastic cancer treatments; requires health insurers to allow PA submissions through an electronic portal without delays; requires PA responses to be made no longer than seven days after the request was submitted; requires health insurers to process PA requests that were previously covered for a patient. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 7750](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A7750) – Licensure

Introduced by Assemblymember Rodneyse Hermelyn (D), A 7750 requires physicians to disclose their probation status to current and new patients; violations can result in penalties up to $2,000, and repeated violations may lead to license suspension. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[K 301](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/K301) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Assemblymember Chris Tague (R), K 301 proclaims March to be designated as colorectal cancer awareness month. The resolution was adopted by the Assembly on April 3.

[K 311](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/K311) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Assemblymember Dana Levenberg (D), K 311 designates April to be proclaimed as Oral Cancer Awareness Month. The resolution was adopted by the Assembly on April 7.

[S 7280](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S7280) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Monica Martinez (D), S 7280 reduces the age for annual mammogram coverage from 35 to 30, contingent upon a physician's recommendations and the health insurer's determination of medical necessity. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 7297](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S7297) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Brad Holyman-Sigal (D), S 7297 reduces the timeframe for utilization review determinations from three business days to 72 hours for non-urgent requests and 24 hours for urgent requests; mandates prior authorization approvals are valid for the duration of the prescription and the treatment duration for a condition. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[J 739](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/J739) – STOP THE BLEED® **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Senator Gustavo Rivera (D), J 739 designates May as STOP THE BLEED® Month. The resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 8.

**OHIO**

[HB 214](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb214/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Kevin Miller (R), HB 214 requires health insurers and Medicaid to report prior authorization (PA) data; prohibits PA if in the preceding 12 months, 90 percent of a providers claims for a service, device, or drug were approved and 20 or more claims were submitted; PA exemption lasts for 12 months. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[HB 219](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb219/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Kellie Deeter (R), HB 219 requires the department of insurance to create network adequacy standards for commercial plans. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[HB 220](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb220/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Heidi Workman (R), HB 220 requires health insurers and Medicaid to honor a prior authorization (PA) approval if a change in dosage is prescribed; requires health insurers to identify the name, specialty, and relevant qualifications of the clinical peer who evaluates PA appeals; prohibits fees for PA appeals. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[SB 160](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/sb160/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Beth Liston (D), SB 160 prohibits health insurers from increasing cost-sharing burdens, moving drugs to more restrictive formulary tiers, or removing drugs from formularies during a plan year, except under conditions related to patient safety. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

[SB 162](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/sb162/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Louis Blessing (R), SB 162 revises the current 24-month insurer takeback timeframe, decreasing it to the same timeframe given to a provider to submit a claim; prohibits health insurers from changing timeframes during a contract period; prohibits insurers from charging a provider for appealing a determination of overpayment. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

[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.

[SB 165](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/sb165/00_IN/pdf/) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Susan Manchester (R), SB 165 prohibits health insurers from reducing or denying claims based solely on diagnosis codes; prohibits prior authorization for emergency services; prohibits health insurers from denying claims based on the absence of an emergency condition if a prudent layperson reasonably thought they were experiencing an emergency health event. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

[SB 166](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/sb166/00_IN/pdf/) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Nathan Manning (R), SB 166 prohibits health insurers and Medicaid from imposing any charge, fee, or other payment (including through withholding from payment), on any health care provider for electronic fund transfers. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Medicaid Committee.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

[HB 1123](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HB1123/PN1251) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Chris Pielli (D), HB 1123 lowers the age for non-symptomatic individuals to receive coverage for colorectal cancer screening from age 50 to age 45; requires coverage for individuals at high risk of colorectal cancer. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[H 6210](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H6210.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Teresa Tanzi (D), H 6210 makes expressions of sympathy by health care providers inadmissible as evidence of liability in professional liability lawsuits. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[S 959](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0959.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Frank Ciccone (R), S 959 prohibits employers or employees from engaging in the psychological abuse of another employee; requires all employers to implement preventative internal policies to prevent psychological abuse in the workplace. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Labor and Gaming Committee.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

[H 4335](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4335_20250409.htm) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Representative Heath Sessions (R), H 4335 allows medical licensees to practice telemedicine in the state without the need to reside or maintain a physical office, provided they hold a medical license in the state; allows out-of-state physicians to offer telehealth services without a-state license when providing ongoing specialty care or informal consultations. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

[H 4343](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4343_20250409.htm) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Elizabeth Wetmore (D), H 4343 requires physicians to complete a human trafficking awareness and prevention course as part of their continuing education requirements; the course must be completed by January 1, 2028 and every six years after. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

[S 531](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/531_20250402.htm) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Michael Johnson (R), S 531 prohibits prior authorization (PA) for one year for health care providers who receive approval for ninety percent or more of their PA requests for a particular health care service in the previous year; allows for step-therapy exceptions if the prescribed drug will likely cause an adverse reaction, is expected to be ineffective, or not in the patients best interest; prohibits PA requirements for patients with chronic conditions after PA has been granted. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Medical Affairs Committee.

**VERMONT**

[S 142](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/S-0142/S-0142%20As%20Introduced.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Wendy Harrison (D), S 142 establishes a licensure pathway for internationally trained physicians, allowing for a provisional license to practice medicine under supervision; the pathway leads to a limited and, eventually, a full, unrestricted license. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

**WASHINGTON**

[HB 1706](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1706-S.SL.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Tarra Simmons (D), HB 1706 requires health insurers to provide electronic prior authorization (PA) decisions within three calendar days and expedited electronic requests within one day; standard nonelectronic requests must be responded to within five calendar days, expedited requests must be responded to within two calendar days. Governor Bob Ferguson (D) signed the bill into law April 7.