**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – February 21, 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**

Tennessee: March 4, Nashville, Tennessee

California: April 9, Sacramento, California

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

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

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ARIZONA**

[HB 2900](https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/GetDocumentPdf/523816) – Utilization Review

Introduced by Representative Lorena Austin (D), HB 2900 requires utilization review agents to send a written acknowledgment to the member and treating provider within five business days of receiving an appeal request. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

**CALIFORNIA**

[AB 876](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB876&version=20250AB87699INT) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Assemblymember Heath Flora (R), AB 876 allows nurse anesthetists to provide comprehensive anesthesia services without supervision. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and is pending referral to a committee.

[SB 306](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB306&version=20250SB30699INT) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Josh Becker (D), SB 306 requires health insurers to exempt a service from prior authorization (PA) for one year if they previously approved 90% or more of a specific covered service and prohibited from imposing PA for one year; must post any services exempt from PA on their website. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[SB 508](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB508&version=20250SB50899INT) – Telehealth

Introduced by Senator Suzette Valladares (R), SB 508 allows out-of-state physicians to provide telehealth services to cancer patients in California without requiring the patient to be part of a clinical trial. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

**CONNECTICUT**

[HB 6979](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/H/PDF/2025HB-06979-R00-HB.PDF) – Licensure

Introduced by the Public Health Committee, HB 6979 allows retired physicians to renew their licenses for volunteer work at a discounted rate. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

**FLORIDA**

[HB 713](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/713/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Medicaid

Introduced by Representative Fabian Basabe (R), HB 713 requires Medicaid coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[SB 734](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/734/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Clay Yarborough (R), SB 734 allows adult children and parents of an adult child to recover damages in wrongful death cases related to medical negligence. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**GEORGIA**

[HB 170](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/230659) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Karen Mathiak (R), HB 170 requires health insurers to disclose payments made to treating health care professionals upon request within 30 days. The bill was introduced in the House.

[HB 197](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/230873) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Lee Hawkins (R), HB 197 requires health insurers to discuss treatment plans with health care professionals before adverse determinations regarding medical necessity; discussion must occur with a clinical peer trained in a related specialty during normal business hours. The bill was introduced in the House.

[SB 5](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/232267) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R), SB 5 requires health insurers to implement a program to reduce prior authorizations based on the health care professional’s adherence to evidence-based medicine. The bill was introduced in the Senate.

[SB 68](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/231978) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator John Kennedy (R), SB 68 specifies when and how noneconomic damages can be made in court; limits recovery of special damages for medical expenses to amounts actually paid; allows for a bifurcated trial in cases involving bodily injury or wrongful death. The bill was introduced in the Senate and read a second time.

**IOWA**

[HSB 191](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/HSB191.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, HSB 191 allocates funds to offer loan repayments or income bonuses capped at $200,000 to recruit and retain health care professionals in high-demand rural areas. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HSB 210](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/HSB210.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, HSB 210 requires plaintiffs to serve a certificate of merit affidavit for each expert witness in a professional liability case within 60 days of the defendant's response; certificate must address all issues related to the standard of care, the breach of that care, and causation; any challenge to the validity of a certificate of merit based on whether it was signed under oath must be filed within 60 days. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SF 272](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SF272.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Dan Dawson (R), SF 272 requires public employers to provide cancer screenings to full-time firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical services providers. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the State Government Committee.

[SSB 1136](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SSB1136.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, SSB 1136 requires notarized certificates of merit from expert witnesses in professional liability claims; the expert witness statement must say the breach caused the personal injury or wrongful death. The study bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SSB 1163](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SSB1163.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, SSB 1163 allocates funds to offer loan repayments or income bonuses capped at $200,000 to recruit and retain health care professionals in high-demand rural areas. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**KANSAS**

[SB 63](https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/documents/sb63_enrolled.pdf) – Criminalization VETO OVERRIDDEN

Introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee, SB 63 prohibits gender transition surgeries for minors; penalties for violations include license revocation and exclusion from professional liability insurance coverage for related damages. Governor Laura Kelly (D) vetoed the bill February 13; veto overridden by both chambers February 18.

**KENTUCKY**

[HB 423](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/hb423/orig_bill.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Kimberly Moser (R), HB 423 requires health insurers to create a program allowing health care professional to qualify for exemptions from prior authorization and evaluate providers annually to determine eligibility. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.

[HB 688](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/hb688/orig_bill.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Steve Bratcher (R), HB 688 allows advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe controlled substances without a collaborative agreement after possessing four years of experience. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Committees.

[HB 759](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/hb759/orig_bill.pdf) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Representative Adam Moore (D), HB 759 allows health care providers to refuse to participate in abortions on moral, religious, or professional grounds without facing penalties. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Committees.

**MINNESOTA**

[HF 690](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF690&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Michael Howard (D), HF 690 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Commerce, Finance, and Policy Committee.

[SF 1340](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1340&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Susan Pha (D), SF 1340 mandates any change in prior authorizations (PA) must not take place until the next plan year for enrollees who have already received PA. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

**MONTANA**

[HB 544](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=0efed455-88a5-4836-bfc6-ef36c9b9f89a) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Ed Buttrey (R), HB 544 prohibits a health insurer from rescinding prior authorization once it is obtained and the service has been provided, except in cases of fraud. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[HB 556](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=027a36c6-e762-47be-ae83-77590c92d582) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Jill Cohenour (D), HB 556 requires artificial intelligence (AI) to make decisions based on individual clinical data rather than solely on group datasets; prohibits AI from replacing health care provider decision-making and from denying, delaying, or modifying health care services based on medical necessity, which must be determined by a licensed health care provider. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

[SB 347](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=285b8638-3aff-493e-8762-9b85d3ddbf26) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Sue Vinton (R), SB 347 mandates interns or resident physicians are no longer exempt from licensing requirements; allows individuals who have completed the first year of an approved residency program and are in good standing to qualify for a physician’s license. The bill was introduced in the Senate and is pending referral to a committee.

**NEVADA**

[AB 234](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/AB/AB234.pdf) – Medicaid

Introduced by Assemblymember Natha Anderson (D), AB 234 requires Medicaid to cover screenings for lung, prostate, and colorectal cancers. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**NEW MEXICO**

[HB 461](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0461.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Doreen Gallegos (D), HB 461 requires health insurers to grant a prior authorization (PA) exception to health care professionals who have had at least 90% of their PA requests approved for outpatient procedures in a six-month evaluation period. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HB 466](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0466.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Rod Montoya (R), HB 466 prohibits health care providers from performing or administering medical procedures intended to enable a minor to identify with a gender inconsistent with their sex; violations can result in civil penalties of $5,000 or actual damages and civil actions. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 444](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0444.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Pat Woods (R), SB 444 allows a judge to determine the amount of punitive damages awarded to a plaintiff in professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 449](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0449.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Larry Scott (R), SB 449 requires professional liability lawsuits to be filed in the county where the patient received treatment; limits the recovery amount from malpractice claims depending on the type of health care provider and the facility it was received in; 75% of punitive damages awarded must be allocated to the state. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 443](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A443) – Step-therapy ENACTED

Introduced by Assemblymember John McDonald (D), A 443 limits the requirement for patients to try and fail on more than two drugs for the same condition before coverage is provided for the prescribed drug; prevents newly enrolled patients from repeating step-therapy protocols completed under a previous plan within the past year. Governor Kathy Hochul (D) signed the bill into law February 14.

[A 2250](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A2250) – Cancer ENACTED

Introduced by Assemblymember Emerita Torres (D), A 2250 mandates no-cost breast cancer screening and diagnostic testing for incarcerated individuals. Governor Kathy Hochul (D) signed the bill into law February 14.

[A 5375](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5375) – Insurance

Introduced by Assemblymember David Weprin (D), A 5375 prohibits arbitrary time frames on reimbursement for anesthesia services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 5480A](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5480A) – Criminalization

Introduced by Assemblymember Harry Bronson (D), A 5480A protects health care practitioners from being charged with professional misconduct solely for engaging in legally protected health care activities. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[A 5724](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5724) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Michaelle Solages (D), A 5724 expands the health education curriculum to include breast cancer screenings, including age-appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Education Committee.

[S 4850](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4850) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Christopher Ryan (D), S 4850 requires health insurers to provide coverage for breast cancer screenings to individuals with second-degree relatives who have a history of breast cancer. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 4914](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4914) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal (D), S 4914 protects individuals who provide or receive legally protected health services from criminal, civil liability, or professional sanctions imposed by jurisdictions outside the state. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Children and Families Committee.

[S 5241](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S5241) – Utilization Review

Introduced by Senator Nathalia Fernandez (D), S 5241 prohibits utilization review agencies conducting a retrospective review or audit of a claim from reversing or altering a determination of medical necessity. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

[H 128](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H128v0.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Rodney Pierce (D), H 128 establishes a prostate cancer control program, providing free or low-cost prostate cancer screenings to men aged 50-70 without a family history, or 40-70 with a family history. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

**OKLAHOMA**

[SB 213](https://www3.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SB/SB213%20INT.PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Brent Howard (R), SB 213 caps the total liability of resident physicians and interns participating in a graduate medical education program at the University of Oklahoma at $15,000; caps the total liability of a physician providing services at a public trust hospital at $1 million; medical negligence claims against a physician who rendered prenatal, delivery, or infant care services between September 1, 1991 through June 30, 1995 are limited to $200,000. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**OREGON**

[HB 3621](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3621/Introduced) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Werner Reschke (R), HB 3621 mandates a pre-abortion ultrasound 72 hours in advance before conducting an abortion; violations may result in a civil penalty of $10,000. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Speaker’s desk.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[SB 277](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0277.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Elaine Morgan (R), SB 277 mandates medical care for infants born alive after attempted abortions; violations can result in ten years of imprisonment or fines up to $25,000. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 305](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0305.pdf) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Senator Elaine Morgan (R), SB 305 protects health care providers from civil, criminal, or administrative liability for refusing to participate in procedures against their conscience. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

[H 4044](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4044_20250219.htm) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Neal Collins (R), HB 4044 removes supervision requirements for certified registered nurse anesthetists and grants them prescriptive authority. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Medical, Military, and Public Municipal Affairs Committee.

[S 346](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/346_20250213.htm) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Thomas Alexander (R), S 346 classifies the injury of a health care professional during their duties as an assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, which is a felony offense carrying up to thirty years of imprisonment. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[S 360](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/360_20250219.htm) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Brad Hutto (D), SB 360 allows certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice independently. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Medical Affairs Committee.

**TEXAS**

[SB 1380](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01380I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Angela Paxton (R), SB 1380 prohibits health insurers from denying or reducing payments for services that do not require prior authorization, unless there is evidence of misrepresentation or failure to perform the service. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending referral to a committee.

[SB 1411](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01411I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Donna Campbell (R), SB 1411 requires health insurers to disclose their use of artificial intelligence (AI) in utilization reviews; prohibits discrimination by physicians using AI algorithms in medical services; penalties for violations can include fines, license suspension, or revocation. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending referral to a committee.

**UTAH**

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

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. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

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

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. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**VERMONT**

[H 241](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/H-0241/H-0241%20As%20Introduced.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Matthew Birong (D), H 241 allows optometrists to perform surgery to remove lesions from the eye, laser procedures, and injections. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee.

**VIRGINIA**

[HB 1583](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1050343.PDF) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Delegate Jason Ballard (R), HB 1583 classifies verbal threats against health care providers as a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Courts of Justice Committee.

**WASHINGTON**

[HB 1979](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1979.pdf) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Representative Dan Bronoske (D), HB 1979 exempts the certificate of need requirements for elective percutaneous coronary interventions provided at hospitals accredited as a comprehensive or primary heart attack center. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Care and Wellness Committee.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

[HB 2544](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb2544%20intr.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Delegate Lisa White (R), HB 2544 allows physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners to practice independently. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 299](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb299%20intr.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Christopher Rose (R), SB 299 prohibits conducting gender reassignment surgery on minors; violations can be subject to disciplinary action by relevant licensing boards; allows individuals to assert violations as claims or defenses in judicial or administrative proceedings with the possibility of obtaining compensatory damages. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 430](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb430%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Laura Chapman (R), SB 430 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 527](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb527%20intr.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Ryan Weld (R), SB 527 clarifies and enhances the penalties for assaults on health care personnel depending on the type of assault, including malicious assault, unlawful assault, battery, and assault with varying degrees of severity based on the nature of the offense. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.