**State Legislative Update – December 2, 2024**

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/)

**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 will play 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

**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/).

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

The following state legislatures remain in session: Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio. Louisiana is in special session and North Carolina is in special session December 2nd through 13th.

Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas have no regular session in even-numbered years. Legislative session information can be found [here](https://www.multistate.us/resources/2024-legislative-session-dates).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[S 663](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S663) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator John Keenan (D), S 663 requires health insurers to reimburse health services covered as a benefit under the health plan; prohibits a health insurer from denying the health care service if the insurer’s approved prior authorization process was followed. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

**MICHIGAN**

[HB 6167](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billintroduced/House/pdf/2024-HIB-6167.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Felicia Brabec (D), HB 6167 allows nurse practitioners (NPs) to independently prescribe controlled substances II – V within the NPs specialty certification; diagnose, treat, and manage patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases; supervise other health professionals as appropriate. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Policy Committee.

[SB 1158](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2024-SIB-1158.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Jeff Irwin (D), SB 1158 increases recoverable noneconomic damages in a medical malpractice action from $280,000 to $1 million per plaintiff and per defendant; noneconomic damages may not exceed $3 million if the patient died, suffered a permanent injury, suffered substantial disfigurement, or suffered serious impairment of an important bodily function; the limitation does not apply if the court determines there was gross negligence, the defendant altered medical records, was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failed to get professional liability insurance, or previously settled or found liable of malpractice. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee.

**NEW JERSEY**

[S 3855](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/S4000/3855_I1.PDF) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Senator Robert Singer (R) S 3855 requires reimbursement parity for telemedicine services the same as an in person visit. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[S 9038](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/S9038A) – Scope of Practice ENACTED

Introduced by Senator Rachel May (D), S 9038 increases the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise at one time from four to six. Governor Kathy Hochul (D) signed the bill into law November 22.