**State Legislative Update – March 29, 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); 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 & Development
* Cancer Screening, Testing, and Treatment
* Insurance & 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. Funds provided through the grant can be applied towards expenses 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/).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

California Advocacy Day, Sacramento, April 10; register [here](https://www.cmadocs.org/event-info/sessionaltcd/LEGDAY24/t/legislative-advocacy-day).

New York Amplifying Surgery’s Voice 2024 Advocacy Day, Albany, May 7; register [here](https://nysurgeon.org/event-5160359).

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

The following state legislatures have adjourned: Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. 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**

**CALIFORNIA**

[AB 2975](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2975&version=20230AB297598AMD) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D), AB 2975 requires an employer to establish, implement, and maintain an effective injury prevention program and hospitals establish workplace violence prevention plans as part of the hospital's injury and illness prevention program to protect facility personnel from aggressive and violent behavior. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Labor and Employment Committee.

**DELAWARE**

[HB 15](https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?legislationId=140957) – Cancer ENACTED

Introduced by Speaker Valerie Longhurst (D), HB 15 requires health care insurers to cover annual ovarian cancer screening tests for women at risk for ovarian cancer; includes monitoring tests for women subsequent to ovarian cancer treatment. Governor John Carney (D) signed the bill into law on March 21.

**IOWA**

[HSB 743](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/90/HSB743.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by the House Ways and Means Committee, HSB 743 establishes if a provider obtains prior authorization from a managed care organization (MCO), the MCO must pay the provider 100% of the claim, and cannot seek repayment, offset against future reimbursement of claims, or other payment or reimbursement from the recipient, the provider, or any other source involved with the furnishing of the item or service. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

**NEBRASKA**

[LR 379](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LR379.pdf) – Biomarker

Introduced by Senator Eliot Bostar (D), LR 379 requires a study to examine the role of health insurance for biomarker testing and the use of biomarker testing in public and private payor markets. The bill was introduced in the Unicameral and referred to the Executive Board.

**NEW YORK**

[S 8907](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/S8907) – Access to Care

Introduced by Senator Kristen Gonzalez (D), S 8907 institutes a moratorium on the closure of hospitals until a comprehensive analysis of the impact of such closures on healthcare access in New York State. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

[HB 2159](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?syear=2023&body=H&type=B&bn=2159) – Cancer/Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Pat Gallagher (D), HB 2159 reduces the age when colorectal cancer screenings are covered from 50 to 45 years old; updates guidelines tests covered by insurance to those recommended by the Department of Health; prevents insurers from requiring prior authorization for any colorectal cancer screenings. The bill was introduced in the House and is pending referral to a committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[SB 2870](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText24/SenateText24/S2870.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Alana DiMario (D), SB 2870 defines cosmetic medical services as the practice of medicine and surgery; a cosmetic medical service performed by a qualified licensed or certified non-physician only if the services have been delegated by supervising physician, supervising physician assistant, or supervising APRN who is responsible for on-site supervision of the services performed. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 2874](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText24/SenateText24/S2874.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Sandra Cano (D), SB 2870 creates a licensing board for certified surgical first assistants; outlines the criteria for a certified surgical first assistant; includes a professional conduct section. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 2875](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText24/SenateText24/S2875.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Ana Quezada (D), SB 2875 requires insurers to provide coverage or interpreter services for all medically necessary doctor appointments. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**UTAH**

[HB 365](https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillamd/HB0365S01.pdf) – Telehealth ENACTED

Introduced by Representative Jeffrey Stenquist (R), HB 365 allows telemedicine services to be used for an initial consultation before the initiation of a treatment protocol or series of treatments for cosmetic procedures. Governor Spencer Cox (R) signed the bill into law on March 21.

[HB 377](https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillamd/HB0377S01.pdf) – Scope of Practice ENACTED

Introduced by Representative Paul Cutler (R), HB 377 seeks to allow a podiatrist to provide wound care, including debridement, cleansing, and dressing on any part of the body. Governor Spencer Cox (R) signed the bill into law on March 20.

**WISCONSIN**

[AB 954](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/214) – Licensure ENACTED

Introduced by Representative Calvin Callahan (R), AB 954 creates provisional licenses for internationally trained physicians to practice as a physician within the state; provisional licenses to practice as a physician are automatically converted into permanent licenses after the provisional license holder practices in this state and maintains good standing for three consecutive years. Governor Tony Evers (D) signed the bill into law March 22.