

## **State Legislative Update – June 28, 2024**

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](#).

### **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 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](#).

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### **Montana Create Emergency ‘Drive-Thru’ Blood Pickup Service for Rural Ambulances**

Trauma patients in Montana face treacherous, long-distance travel to receive trauma care in the state. For example, a woman with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy barely survived the 100-mile, 2.5-hour ambulance drive from her small town to Billings after her heart stopped and she lost almost all of her blood.

The Montana State Trauma Care Committee, which works to reduce trauma incidents and improve care, later realized the ambulance had passed by two hospitals with stocked blood. This inspired the Committee to create the Montana Interfacility Blood Network, which allows ambulance crews to pick up blood from hospitals and transfuse it to patients on the way to more advanced care.

ACS Fellow, Gordon Riha, MD, FACS, a trauma surgeon at the Billings Clinic trauma center said timely blood transfusions can prevent death or permanent brain injury and is aimed at rural patients who face elevated rates of traumatic injuries and death. The program has helped at least three patients since it launched in 2022. Read more [here](#).

The ACS State Affairs team is working with a small group of active surgeons in Montana to address trauma funding in the state.

### **Advisory Commission on Alternate Licensing Models Hosts Symposium**

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) hosted more than 175 individuals representing state medical licensure boards on June 18 in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by the Advisory Commission on Alternate Licensing Models (Commission), which is co-chaired by the FSMB, Intealth, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and formed earlier this year to provide guidance to state seeking to improve access to care by streamlining the licensure of international physicians who have trained and practiced outside the United States.

A number of states are interested in modifying traditional post-graduate training requirements for licensure or creating new licensure categories in an effort to address a nationwide physician shortage. New York, Maine, California, Tennessee, ACGME, the World Federation for Medical Education, and the Cicero Institute presented a sampling of programs discussing legislative pathways for internationally licensed physicians to practice in the U.S.

The Commission will use the provided information and feedback from the symposium to create its collaborative analysis and subsequent draft recommendations, which will include a period of time for public comment. The College continues to monitor the process and contribute where applicable.

### **Cancer Equity Compass**

The Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute launched a new online tool showing the overlap between cancer disparities and social determinants of health using advanced heat maps of U.S. counties. Read more [here](#).

### **STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

The following state legislatures remain in session: California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas have no regular session in even-numbered years. Legislative session information can be found [here](#).

### **LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

#### **CALIFORNIA**

##### **[SCR 155](#) – Cancer **ADOPTED****

Introduced by Senator Lena Gonzalez (D), SCR 155 proclaims the month of October 2024 as breast cancer awareness and prevention month. The bill was adopted June 26.

#### **NEW JERSEY**

##### **[A 4655](#) – Scope of Practice**

Introduced by Assemblymember Shanique Speight (D), A 4655 allows physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, certified midwives, and advanced practice nurses to perform abortions and administer medication abortions. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

#### [A 4656](#) – Criminalization

Introduced by Assemblymember Shanique Speight (D), A 4656 amends state law to ban additional or alternative penalties on a health care professional participating in or assisting with a procedure related to an abortion or gender-affirming services; provides legal protection to a health care professional regarding communications and information obtained related to reproductive health care services; establishes the crime of interference with reproductive or gender-affirming health services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

#### [S 3490](#) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Teresa Ruiz (D), S 3490 allows physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, certified midwives, and advanced practice nurses to perform abortions and administer medication abortions. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

#### [S 3491](#) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Teresa Ruiz (D), S 3491 amends state law to ban any additional or alternative penalties on a health care professional participating in or assisting with a procedure related to an abortion or gender-affirming services; provides legal protection to a health care professional regarding communications and information obtained related to reproductive health care services; establishes the crime of interference with reproductive or gender-affirming health services. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

### **RHODE ISLAND**

#### [H 7577](#) – Criminalization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative John Edwards (D), HB 7577 creates a legal shield for health care professionals to prevent an individual from interfering with another's access to transgender or reproductive health care services. Governor Daniel McKee (D) signed the bill into law June 25.

#### [H 7734](#) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Rebecca Kislak (D), H 7734 amends state law upon the determination a patient has heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts, the summary of the mammography report must also include mandated FDA national reporting standard for breast density patient notification language in notice to the patient. Governor Daniel McKee (D) signed the bill into law June 25.

#### [S 2262](#) – Criminalization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Dawn Euer (D), S 2262 creates a legal shield for health care professionals to prevent an individual from interfering with another's access to transgender or reproductive health care services. Governor Daniel McKee (D) signed the bill into law June 25.

#### [S 2609](#) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Bridget Valverde (D), S 2609 amends existing law so that all facilities performing mammography examinations include the FDA Reporting Standard for breast density notification language in the summary of the mammography report. Governor Daniel McKee (D) signed the bill into law June 25.

[S 2758](#) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Frank Lombardi (D), S 2758 requires a licensing board to impose a probationary period of three years for any licensee found guilty of overprescribing resulting in death; subsequent violation during the probationary period may result in a suspension or revocation of licensure. Governor Daniel McKee (D) signed the bill into law June 25.

[S 2874](#) – Licensure **VETOED**

Introduced by Senator Sandra Cano (D), S 2870 creates a licensing board for certified surgical first assistants; outlines the criteria for a certified surgical first assistant. Governor Daniel McKee (D) vetoed the bill June 26.