

ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – June 26, 2026

STATE AFFAIRS WORKGROUP

Arnold Baskies, MD, FACS (NJ); Christina Colosimo, DO, FACS (CA); 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

- Prior Authorization/Downcoding
- Restrictive Covenants
- Private Equity/Corporate Practice of Medicine
- Scope of Practice
- Cancer
- Rural Surgery
- Professional Liability
- Continuing Medical Education/Maintenance of Certification
- Trauma

For more information regarding ACS State Affairs Policy Priorities in your state, please contact Catherine Hendricks, State Affairs Manager, at chendricks@facs.org. To view a complete list of bills ACS State Affairs is tracking, visit our online [State Legislative Tracker](#).

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](#).

STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Legislatures not in session: Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas have no legislative session in 2026. Most states have adjourned for this session, except for the following: California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. South Carolina and Virginia are in special session. State legislative session information for 2026 can be found [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

5 physician legal controversies reshaping healthcare

Several high-profile legal disputes are shaping the future of physician practice and health care regulation nationwide. Recent cases involve challenges to corporate control of physician groups under corporate practice of medicine laws (Oregon and California), scrutiny of physician noncompete agreements following health system mergers (Minnesota), allegations physician compensation arrangements violated Stark Law by tying pay to referral revenue (Tennessee), and a major dispute over the use of the No Surprises Act arbitration process between a national insurer and a large physician group. Collectively, these cases could have significant implications

for physician autonomy, private equity involvement in medicine, employment contracts, reimbursement disputes, and health system compliance across the country. Read more [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

ALASKA

HB 27 – Trauma System Funding **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Genevieve Mina (D), HB 27 awards grants to assist agencies in delivering emergency medical trauma care. The bill became law without the governor's signature on June 18.

SB 89 – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Loki Tobin (D), SB 89 allows physician assistants (PAs) to be recognized as an attending physician; prohibits a contract with a PA to be inconsistent with or more restrictive than adopted statute or regulations; the medical board is responsible for establishing a scope of practice for PAs which excludes surgery. The bill became law without the governor's signature on June 18.

ARIZONA

SB 1165 – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Hildy Angius (R), SB 1165 requires health insurers to provide no cost sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast exams. Governor Katie Hobbs (D) signed the bill into law June 19.

SB 1215 – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Kevin Payne (R), SB 1215 expands the list of cancers presumed to be occupational diseases for fire fighters to be covered by workers' compensation; includes adenocarcinoma, bladder cancer, brain cancer, breast cancer, buccal cavity cancer, colon cancer, esophageal cancer, kidney cancer, large intestine cancer, Leukemia, lung cancer, lymphoma, malignant melanoma, mesothelioma of the respiratory tract, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, ovarian cancer, pharynx cancer, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, skin cancer, stomach cancer, testicular cancer. Governor Katie Hobbs (D) signed the bill into law June 22.

SB 1494 – Insurance **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Carine Werner (R), SB 1494 prohibits health insurers to steer or advise people with known health conditions to drop their current health plan for another as a regular business practice; prohibits providers from paying premiums for enrollees; creates an unprofessional conduct violation for physicians to advise patients to enroll/disenroll from specific insurance plans; allows health care professionals to discuss in-network/out-of-network status with patients. Governor Katie Hobbs (D) signed the bill into law June 19.

CALIFORNIA

AB 687 – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Joe Patterson (R) AB 687 requires health insurers to provide no cost sharing colorectal cancer screening to include tests approved by the FDA, covered by CMS, or recommended by the American Cancer Society, in addition to those graded A or B by the USPSTF. The bill passed the Assembly and is in the Senate Rules Committee.

ILLINOIS

[SB 2713](#) – Workplace Violence **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Julie Morrison (D), SB 2713 amends statute to include ambulatory surgical centers; prohibits limiting the types of workplace violence a healthcare worker can report to law enforcement; a workplace must submit their proposed workplace violence prevention program with the department of health, failure to do so results in penalties and fines; must begin investigating any workplace violence incident, risk, or hazard within 48 hours of becoming aware of it, and must document findings and recommendations; requires recordkeeping of workplace violence incidents; requires yearly reports to the department of health. Governor Jay Pritzker (D) signed the bill into law June 26.

MICHIGAN

[HB 6119](#) – Restrictive Covenants

Introduced by Representative Joseph Aragona (R), HB 6119 prohibits the enforcement of most noncompete agreements; agreements must be reasonable in duration, geographic scope, and allow courts to modify unreasonable agreements to make them enforceable. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Government Operations Committee.

PENNSYLVANIA

[HB 2611](#) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Emily Kinhead (D), HB 2611 establishes criminal liability for chief executive officers (CEOs) of health insurers; a CEO can be charged with aggravated assault if an insured individual suffers serious bodily injury or death as a direct result of an adverse benefit determination specifically, the denial of a medically necessary benefit, by the health insurer. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 1398](#) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta (R), SB 1398 creates a state-funded program to cover out-of-pocket cancer screening costs for eligible Pennsylvania firefighters. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.