

January 13, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Earlier this month the Governor's Opioid Task Force released its report on

[Combating Opioid Abuse](#) in Wisconsin. The report made several recommendations and [prompted](#) Governor Walker to issue three executive orders last week. Among the orders is a call for the legislature to consider legislation addressing the epidemic, including developing additional requirements for controlled substance prescriptions and rules and procedures for prescribing, dispensing, administering, and using opioids.



Last month, a New Jersey Administrative Law Judge [ruled](#) that an injured worker

was entitled to coverage for medical marijuana used to treat his hand injury. The judge ruled that the injured worker's use of the marijuana had been successful, helping him reduce his use of narcotics and increase functionality. In 2010, New Jersey legalized medical marijuana for specific diseases and this ruling does nothing to broaden those rules but it is the first case in NJ requiring coverage for medical marijuana in workers' comp.



The Virginia legislature went into session on Wednesday and already has a handful

of opioid related bills on the docket. The bills look to limit opioid prescriptions to [7-day](#) fills, and [3-day](#) fills for emergency room settings, [require](#) electronic prescribing for all opioid prescriptions, and [create](#) opioid prescribing regulations for medical providers.



A newly introduced [bill](#) in the Montana House would allow an injured worker to choose their treating

physician, including selection of a treating physician for initial treatment.





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Once again, a [bill](#) has been introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly

establishing workers' comp coverage for employees who witness a death on the job and suffer post-traumatic stress disorder or other emotional and mental impairments. Similar bills have been introduced every legislative session since the Sandy Hook school shooting, but each year the bill fails to make it out of the General Assembly.



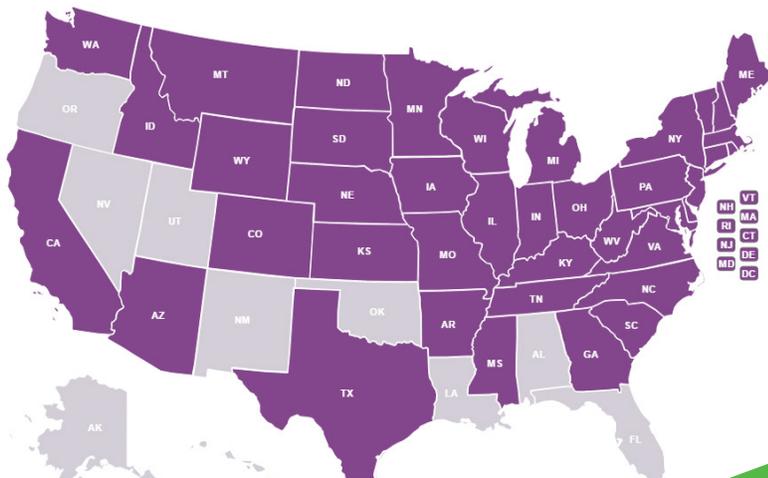
The Illinois legislature began its session this week and among the bills introduced is

[SB 12](#) which includes numerous workers' comp reforms. A section of the bill calls on the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Advisory Board to develop an evidence-based drug formulary and would require that all prescriptions prescribed to injured workers be limited to the drugs and doses on the formulary.

Article of Interest

In light of some upsetting statistics about the opioid epidemic, the New York Times released a new [look](#) at the impact of the epidemic on people across the country, from those suffering from opioid addiction to the medical examiners whose offices have been overwhelmed by opioid related deaths.

States in Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week conducting calls with our lobbyists and scheduling legislative meetings for the 2017 session.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Jayne Kresac, Esq.
VP, Legal and Government Affairs
jkresac@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.809.2148

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Manager of Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.770.8047

