

June 9, 2017

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



The Florida legislature entered a special session on Wednesday, that is set to end on Friday. The Special

Session is targeting education spending, funding for tourism, and approval of an economic plan to lure businesses to the state. Although workers' comp is not on the agenda, it has not stopped business groups from lobbying to get it on the agenda before adjournment on Friday. The legislature failed to pass workers' comp reform during the regular session. It came close in the final days but was unable to reach an agreement on attorney's fees.



The Wisconsin Workers' Comp Advisory Council is scheduled to meet next week to discuss various legislative

proposals from both employers and labor. Among the proposals up for discussion is the adoption of ODG treatment guidelines, a Medicare-based medical fee schedule, and the right for an employer to specify a list of at least six physicians authorized to treat an injured worker. The Council is expected to propose a workers' comp bill addressing some of the proposals for the 2018 session.



Last Friday, the California Senate passed SB 562, a bill that would establish a single-payer health care system for the

entire state and look for ways to incorporate workers' comp coverage into it. However, the \$400 billion price tag is still largely unfunded and many feel the structure would make health care less accessible for California residents. It still remains unlikely the bill will pass this year.





# State of the States



Governor Hickenlooper signed [HB 1229](#) into law this week. The bill removes the limit

on a workers' comp claim for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to those associated with an event outside of the normal scope of a workers' job responsibilities. This bill will open the door for police and other first responders to make a PTSD claim under the state's workers' comp statute.



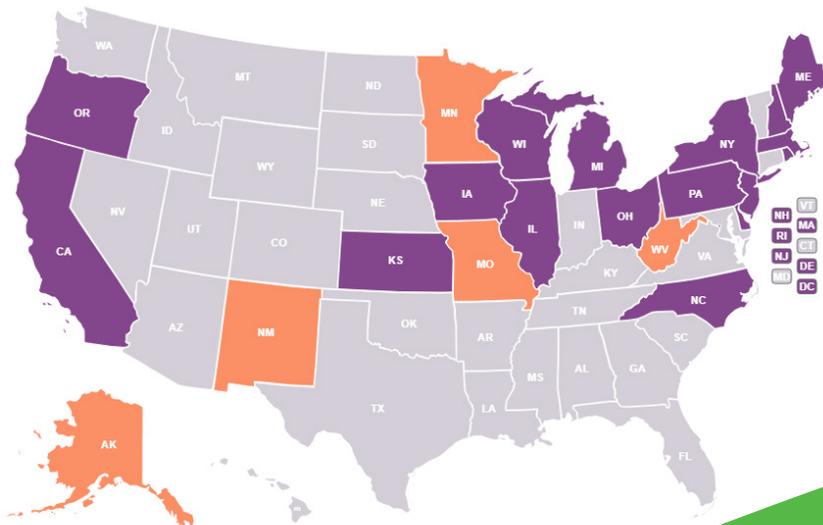
The 2017 legislative session adjourned this week and [HB 592](#) which would establish

the ODG drug formulary for all workers' comp claims failed to pass out of the Senate. The sponsor, Representative Talbot, has vowed to reintroduce the measure in 2018.

## Article of Interest

Data compiled from across the country shows the [impact](#) of the opioid epidemic in 2016, with the United States recording the largest annual increase in drug deaths. The number now exceeds the peak death rates for car crashes, HIV, and guns.

## States in Session



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

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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