



June 15, 2018

State of the States



This week, Governor Greg Abbott **appointed** Cassie Brown as the Commissioner of Worker's Compensation for Texas. Brown has worked at the Texas Department of Insurance since 2011 and will serve as the Workers' Comp Commissioner until February 1, 2019. Former Commissioner, Ryan Brannan, announced he was stepping down effective May 1.



SB 716, which would expand workers' comp benefits for first responders, was passed by the New Jersey Senate 29-4 late last week. The bill allows firefighters with seven or more years of experience, rescue squad members, police, corrections officers, and

emergency medical workers to receive workers' comp benefits for cancer and lung disease. The bill is now before the House Labor Committee.



On Tuesday, the New York Senate passed **S 5670**. The bill requires prescribers to consult patients regarding an opioid prescription before prescribing a schedule II. The prescriber is required to notify the patient that they may fill the script for a lesser quantity and inform the patient of the risks associated with the use of opioids. The prescriber must also document the need for an opioid prescription in the patient's chart. The Assembly's Higher Education Committee will now consider the bill.



On Tuesday, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet announced the first meeting of the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Regulatory Advisory Committee on June 19. The Committee will be responsible for the development and implementation of a workers' comp drug formulary by 2019 and treatment guidelines by the end of 2018. The formulary and treatment guidelines were adopted by the legislature back in March as part of **HB 2**.



State of the States

National



This week, the National Institutes of Health **published** a list of objectives they will undertake to address the opioid epidemic after receiving \$500 million in research funds from the United States Congress. Among the objectives is tinkering with existing opioid medications so they can be taken less often, discovering and validating new targets for non-addictive pain drugs, and partnering with pharmaceutical companies to accelerate the development of new pain and addiction medications.

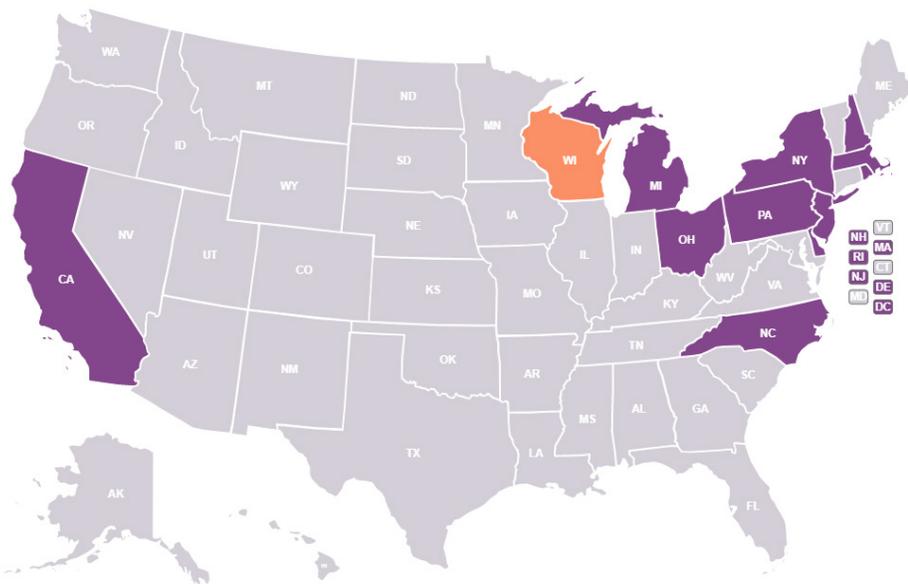
Article of Interest

A new report **found** that with new federal limits on opioids issued by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) there has been a significant increase in illicit online sales of prescription drugs.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

Danielle will be in Oklahoma Tuesday and Wednesday of next week for legislative meetings.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us

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