

JANUARY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

WHAT'S UP IN WASHINGTON?

Government Shutdown

- Healthcare reform has been put on the back-burner as Congress has been focusing all its attention towards passing a new funding bill.
- The Senate failed to pass a new funding law before the old one expired, leading to a government shutdown which started January 20th.
- The entire government certainly does not shut down, but all government employees deemed non-essential are furloughed, meaning they are told not to come to work and will not be paid until the shutdown is over.
- The Senate reached a deal on January 22nd to continue government funding for another 2½ weeks. This deal came after a promise from Senate Majority Leader McConnell to arrange a floor vote on a bill to codify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which was the reason Democratic Senators were holding off from voting on funding legislation.
- If agreements aren't reached soon on funding or DACA, we could see another shutdown on February 8th.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

HB 456: Prohibit Requiring Nurses to Work Overtime

Prohibit a hospital from requiring a nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment.

LEGISLATION UPDATES

No updates to current legislation this month, but stay tuned!

CURRENTLY FOLLOWING

State Legislation:

HB 456: Prohibit Requiring Nurses to Work Overtime
(Stephanie Daniel)

Federal Legislation:

S 204: Right to Try Act of 2017
(Jen Guy)

HR 1017/S 479: Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screenings Act of 2017
(Sarah Kincaid)

HR 1298: CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act of 2017
(Amy Tootle)

HR 1409: Cancer Drug Parity Act
(Greg Goodman)

S 693/HR 1676: Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act
(Alana Wagner)

S 463/ HR 1834: Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2017
(Liz Pearson)

ONLY IN OHIO

HB 456 - Nurse Mandatory Overtime Bill

- Developed by the Ohio Nurses Association.
- Hospitals would be prohibited from requiring a nurse to stay beyond scheduled hours.
- Furthermore, if a nurse refuses a request to stay over scheduled hours, the hospital would be prohibited from reprimanding the nurse or turning the nurse in to the Ohio Board of Nursing for patient abandonment.
- Representative Robert Sprague introduced the bill on December 28th and it was referred to the House Health Committee on January 16th.
- ONA hopes to have a timeline in the upcoming week of when sponsor testimony will be given by Representative Sprague.
- This bill has gained a large amount of media attention since being introduced, including interviews with Representative Sprague and ONA representatives by NPR and NBC4.
- The Ohio Hospital Association is still in opposition to the legislation.
- Updates will be shared as they become available.

For full details and descriptions of legislation being followed, please visit the Advocacy tab on the CCONS website at columbus.vc.ons.org or speak with the committee member following the bill.