General Update: The General Assembly met this week for days 15-18. Please click here for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

Georgia Bio Legislative Action
This week the Georgia Bio Legislative Affairs committee voted to SUPPORT the following bills:

**HB 519- Insurance; health benefit plans; utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols**
Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta
Bill Status: House Insurance
HB 519 establishes a basic framework for when it is medically appropriate to implement a step therapy protocol for patients. The step therapy guidelines in the legislation indicate that the order in which pharmaceutical drugs will be prescribed will be developed by independent experts not affiliated with health plans. The protocol can be overridden through a process.
Georgia Bio Position: SUPPORT

**HB 747- Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients receive unrestricted access to hemophilia medications**
Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta
Bill Status: House Health and Human Services
HB 747 would provide that Medicaid recipients have unrestricted access to medications prescribed for hemophilia by prohibiting preferred drug list, prior 12 authorization, step edit, or other drug management requirements on any such medications approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.
Georgia Bio Position: SUPPORT

Budget Update
This week the House passed the amended FY 2018 supplemental budget. With the passage of HB 683, the House Appropriation Committee is now turning their attention to the FY 2019 budget while Senate Appropriations will take up HB 683.

Bills of Interest
**HB 873- Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act**
Bill Author: David Knight-R Griffin
Bill Status: House Hopper
HB 873 would provide consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits. HB 873 was introduced on behalf of the Medical Association of Georgia and it requires that PBMs and insurers use a standard prior authorization form developed by the DOI with input from a committee of physicians and insurers. Further,
requires that PBMs/insurers include on their websites formulary information as well as processes for step therapy requirements.

**Bill Movement**

The following bills passed the Senate this week and will move over to the House for consideration.

**SB 357-The Health Act**
Bill Sponsor: Senator Dean Burke-R Bainbridge
Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018
SB 357 would establish a new Health Coordination and Innovation Council made of public and private healthcare institutions that would be charged with advising on best practices in healthcare for the state.
Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

**SB 352-Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery**
Bill Sponsor: Renee Unterman-R Buford
Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018
SB 352 would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery to help combat the issue of opioid addiction in Georgia.
Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

**Georgia Bio Legislative Dinners**

Georgia Bio will hold a **House Legislative Dinner on Monday, February 19** and a **Senate Legislative Dinner on Tuesday, March 6**.

**House Legislative Guests**
Monday, February 19

Butch Parrish-Chairman of Health Appropriations
Ron Stephens-House Economic Development Chairman and member of Health Appropriations Committee
Bruce Williamson-Majority Caucus Secretary and Member of the Ways and Means Committee
Darlene Taylor-Chairman on Information and Audits and member of Health Appropriations Committee
Alan Powell-Chairman of Public Safety and member of the House Appropriations Committee
Rick Williams-Member of House Higher Education Committee

**Senate Legislative Guests**
Tuesday, March 6

Mike Dugan-Senate Chairman of Economic Development
Dean Burke-Senate Ethics Chairman and Vice Chairman of Health and Human Services
John Wilkinson-Senate Agriculture Chairman and Vice Chairman of Senate Education
Steve Gooch-Senate Majority Whip

If you are interested in joining us for one of these dinners, please email mthacker@gabio.org.

**GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2018 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mon. Feb. 19 at 12pm
Mon. Mar. 5 at 12pm
Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm
Mon. April 2 at 12pm