GENERAL UPDATE:

The General Assembly met this week for days 17-20. Please click here for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

BUDGET UPDATE:

On Thursday February 21st the Senate passed the amended FY 2019 supplemental budget and the House agreed on Friday February 22nd to the Senate Substitute as Amended. With the passage of HB 30, the House and Senate are now turning their attention to the FY 2020 budget.

BILL MOVEMENT

This week the Senate Health and Human Services Committee passed SB 106 the Patients First Act. The bill is now headed to rules and then the Senate floor. This bill authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waivers request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. HB 99 passed out of the Insurance committee earlier this week and was adopted by the House on February 22nd. HB 158 & HB 166 were passed/adopted by the House earlier this week and are on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee agenda on February 25th. Please see below for more details.

HB 99 - Insurance; Provide for Modernization and Updates
Bill Author: Rep. Richard Smith (R - Columbus)
Bill Status: Passed/Adopted by House on February 22, 2019
Summary: HB 99 purposes to modernization and update provisions regarding health insurance for purposes of conformity.
Importance: Monitoring
HB 158 - Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs

Bill Author: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs)
Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted on February 19, 2019 and introduced in the Senate
Summary: HB 158 provides Medicaid recipients the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program, prohibit utilization management tools for such regimens, and allows the submission of a state plan waiver if necessary.
Importance: Monitoring

HB 166 – Genetic Counselors Act

Bill Author: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs)
Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted on February 15, 2019 and introduced in the Senate
Summary: HB 166 provides provisions for the licensure of genetic counselors, continuing education requirements, renewal requirements and duties and powers of the Georgia Composite Medical Board with respect to genetic counselors.
Importance: Monitoring

SB 106 - “Patients First Act”

Bill Author: Senator Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)
Bill Status: Passed by Health and Human Services Committee February 19, 2019
Summary: Governor Kemp set aside $1 million in the state health department’s budget to develop a waiver that would drive competition and improve quality while encouraging innovation. HB 106 “Patients First Act” was introduced this week to authorize the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Patients First Act is a step toward lowering insurance premiums, enhancing access to quality care, and improving health outcomes in every part of our state.
Importance: Monitoring

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SHEET
Georgia Bio will provide updates on specific legislation of interest to the Georgia Bio membership. If you have bills that you would like included in the weekly bill update, please email jsantoro@gabio.org.

Legislative Tracking Sheet

GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2019 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Thurs. Jan. 17th at 10am
Mon. Jan. 28th at 11am
Mon. Feb. 11 at 11am
Mon. Feb. 25 at 11am
Mon. Mar. 11th at 11am
Mon. Mar. 25th at 11am

If you would like to participate on a Georgia Bio Policy Committee call, please contact jsantoro@gabio.org.