WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY

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Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 11, 2016

The last day for each house to pass bills was August 31, which was the last day of session before the Legislature recessed. September 30 was the last day the Governor had to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after September 1. Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians. Bills noted as "chaptered" were signed by the Governor. Chaptered bills take effect January 1, 2017, except for bills with an urgency clause which take effect immediately upon enactment.

Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 635	**Atkins D**	Medical interpretation services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would set some parameters for funds appropriated in this year's budget to conduct a study and establish a pilot program to evaluate a mechanism to provide and improve interpretation services for Medi-Cal patients who are limited English proficient (LEP).	Support
AB 1299	**Ridley-Thomas D**	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster children.	CHAPTERED	This bill would seek to ensure foster kids placed out of county have access to specialty mental health services by giving the county probation agency or child welfare services agency who is responsible for the care and placement of the child for determining whether presumptive transfer is appropriate.	
AB 1696	**Holden D**	Medi-Cal: tobacco cessation services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would provide that tobacco cessation services are covered under Medi-Cal including all intervention recommendations by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.	Support
AB 1849	**Gipson D**	Foster youth: transition to independent living: health insurance coverage.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require that a youth in foster care's 90-day transition plan include verification that the youth is enrolled in Medi-Cal and a description of the steps taken a to ensure that the youth remains on Medi-Cal.	Support
AB 2207	**Wood D**	Medi-Cal: dental program.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require DHCS to expedite the Denti-Cal provider enrollment process, require Medi-Cal managed care plans to cover and ensure dental screenings for all beneficiaries as a part of the initial health assessment, increase the department's oversight over access and utilization of Denti-Cal services and codify the data reporting and evaluation requirements for the Dental Transformation Initiative.	Support
AB 2394	**Garcia, Eduardo D**	Medi-Cal: nonmedical transportation.	CHAPTERED	This bill would clarify that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit beginning July 2017.	**Sponsor**
AB 2821	**Chiu D**	Housing for a Healthy California Program.	VETOED	This bill would create the Housing for a Healthy California Program to provide rental assistance to Medi-Cal members who are homeless.	Support

SB 586	**Hernandez D**	Children's services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would establish the Whole Child Model program into the California Children's Services (CCS) program in a limited number of County Organized Health System (COHS) counties and extend the carve-out for all other counties to 2022.	Support
SB 1174	**McGuire D**	Medi-Cal: children: prescribing patterns: psychotropic medications.	CHAPTERED	This bill would establish a process for the California Medical Board to review physicians whose prescribing practices involving foster children conflict with safety guidelines.	Support
SB 1339	**Monning D**	Public social services: intercounty transfers.	CHAPTERED	This bill would streamline intercounty transfer procedures for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh.	**Sponsor**
Health Care Reform					
AB 2077	**Burke D**	Health Care Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Act.	VETOED	This bill would require procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured.	**Sponsor**
AB 2308	**Hernández, Roger D**	Health care coverage: information to students.	CHAPTERED	This bill would provide uninsured students of the CSU and community colleges with information about health care coverage options.	Support
SB 1477	**Committee on Health**	Health.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the California Health Benefit Exchange to also be known as Covered California, replace references from the now-repealed Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal, and from the repealed AIM-Linked Infants Program to the Medi-Cal Access Program, and other technical changes.	
Health Insurance Market					
AB 72	**Bonta D**	Health care coverage: out-of-network coverage.	CHAPTERED	This bill would protect consumers from surprise medical bills by prohibiting an enrollee from being charged more than their in-network cost-sharing when they obtain covered services from a in-network facility by an out-of-network provider.	Support
AB 1954	**Burke D**	Health care coverage: reproductive health care services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would prohibit health insurance plans from requiring a referral prior to a woman accessing reproductive and sexual health care services.	
SB 908	**Hernandez D**	Health care coverage: premium rate change: notice: other health coverage.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require health plans and health insurers to notify contract holders in the individual and small group market if premium rates have been determined unreasonable or unjustified and gives the contract holders the option to obtain health coverage from another provider within 60 days.	Support
SB 1135	**Monning D**	Health care coverage: notice of timely access to care.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require health plans and insurers to notify consumers and health care providers about patients' rights to timely access of care and language assistance in its evidence of coverage and provider directory.	Support
SB 1159	**Hernandez D**	California Health Care Cost, Quality, and Equity Data Atlas.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require health plans and other health care entities to provide specified cost and quality data information to the Secretary of California Health and Human Services to develop a health care cost and quality data base.	Support

Mental Health					
AB 168	**Maienschein R**	Mental health: community-based services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require DHCS to submit a proposal to the federal government that would redirect a portion of mental health funds currently used to match federal funds to provide increased housing opportunities for individuals with severe mental illnesses.	
AB 741	**Williams D**	Mental health: community care facilities.	VETOED	This bill would allow a short-term residential treatment center to be operated as a children's crisis residential center.	
AB 2279	**Cooley D**	Mental Health Services Act: county-by-county spending reports.	VETOED	This bill would require that information about statewide and county-by-county funding for mental health programs be made available to the public.	
SB 884	**Beall D**	Special education: mental health services.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the K-12 audit guide to include an audit procedure for educationally related mental health service expenditures, and requires the California Department of Education to report outcomes for students who receive educationally related mental health services.	Support
SB 1113	**Beall D**	Pupil health: mental health.	VETOED	This bill would authorize local educational agencies (LEAs) to enter into partnerships with county mental health plans for the provision of EPSDT mental health services.	
SB 1291	**Beall D**	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health: minor and nonminor dependents.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require an external quality review organization to review annual mental health plans, including specific data for foster youth. DHCS would be required to share data with county boards of supervisors.	
SB 1466	**Mitchell D**	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.	VETOED	This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen.	Support
Benefits					
AB 1795	**Atkins D**	Health care programs: cancer.	CHAPTERED	This bill would expand eligibility for breast cancer screening under the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program to symptomatic women under age 40.	Support
SB 999	**Pavley D**	Health care coverage: contraceptives: annual supply.	CHAPTERED	This bill will require health plans and insurers to cover a 12-month supply of FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives.	
Access to Care					
AB 1823	**Bonilla D**	California Cancer Clinical Trials Program.	CHAPTERED	This bill would establish the California Cancer Clinical Trials Program run by the University of California to collect donations for a program to increase patient access to cancer clinical trials in underserved or disadvantaged communities and populations.	
SB 1139	**Lara D**	Health professionals: medical degree programs: healing arts residency training programs: undocumented immigrants: nonimmigrant aliens: scholarships, loans, and loan repayment.	CHAPTERED	This bill would prohibit the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development from denying an application for California's scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for health professionals based on the citizenship status or immigration status of the applicant.	Support

Other					
AB 1628	**Committee on Budget**	No Place Like Home Program: financing.	CHAPTERED	Budget cleanup bill related to "No Place Like Home" program that would authorize up to $2 billion in bond issuance to construct permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with mental illness.	
AB 1726	**Bonta D**	Data collection.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to use additional separate collection categories and other tabulations for specified Asian groups and Pacific Islander groups.	Support
SB 1098	**Cannella R**	Medi-Cal: dental services: utilization rate: report.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the department to report to the Legislature by October 2017 on progress towards the goal of raising the Denti-Cal utilization rate among children to 60% or greater and identify a date by which the department projects this utilization goal will be met.	

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