

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of May 10, 2017

Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians. Bills had to pass out of policy committee by April 28 if they were fiscal bills. Nonfiscal bills must pass out of policy committee by May 12. Bills that did not pass out of policy committee are noted as a “2-Year Bill”. Bills are now being heard by the Appropriations committees which conduct fiscal analysis. Any bill with significant costs is held in a Suspense file, and by May 26, both houses will announce which bills will come off that file and move to a vote of the full house. Bills must pass out of their house of origin by June 2.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 74	Chiu D	Housing.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would create the Housing for a Healthy California Program to provide rental assistance to Medi-Cal members who are homeless.	Support
AB 180	Wood D	Medi-Cal.	Senate	Spot bill for Medi-Cal in case of ACA repeal. Also allows ABX1-1 report to be issued twice a year rather than quarterly.	Support
AB 286	Gipson D	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: home upkeep allowances: transitional needs funds.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would provide for a home upkeep allowance and a transitional needs fund for up to six months for a long-term care facility resident who intends to leave the facility and return or establish a home in a community.	
AB 391	Chiu D	Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would authorize DHCS to submit a State Plan Amendment to allow federal reimbursement for preventive services, specifically asthma education and home environmental asthma trigger assessment services, provided by qualified professionals that may fall outside of the state’s clinical licensure system.	Support
AB 839	Garcia, Eduardo D	Medi-Cal: targeted case management.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows tribal health programs to provide Targeted Case Management services as a local agency, thus drawing down a federal Medicaid match.	Support
AJR 8	Kalra D	Public social services: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.	Assembly Floor	Assembly joint resolution stating that the Legislature opposes cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Calls on our state’s Representatives in Congress to vote against any such cuts and calls on the President to honor his campaign promise not to cut these programs.	Support
SB 152	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal.	Assembly	Spot bill for Medi-Cal in case of ACA repeal. Also allows ABX1-1 report to be issued twice a year rather than quarterly and pushes out reporting deadline for CCS Whole Child Model program should implementation of the program be delayed.	Support
SB 202	Dodd D	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: personal needs allowance.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medi-Cal eligible individuals living in an institutionalized setting from \$35 to \$80 per month and annually adjust the personal needs allowance by the same percentage as the consumer price index.	

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SB 218	Dodd D	The Qualified ABLE Program: tax-advantaged savings accounts.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would authorize the transfer of all amounts in the designated beneficiary's ABLE account to an ABLE account for another individual and prohibit the state from seeking recovery of any amount remaining in the designated beneficiary's ABLE account.	Support
SB 220	Pan D	Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel.	Senate Floor	This bill would revise the qualification criteria for the 3 panel positions filled by parent members of the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel with 3 members who are either Medi-Cal enrollees who have received Medi-Cal benefits or services in relation to a pregnancy, or who are a parent, foster parent, relative caregiver, or legal guardian of a Medi-Cal enrollee who is 21 years of age or younger.	
SB 222	Hernandez D	Inmates: health care enrollment.	Senate Appropriations	Requires DHCS to extend the suspension of Medi-Cal benefits for incarcerated persons until they are released, regardless of the length of the incarceration, rather than terminating their benefits after one year and re-rolling prior to release.	Support
SB 323	Mitchell D	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health centers: Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would authorize FQHCs and RHCs to provide Drug Medi-Cal services and specialty mental health services pursuant to a mutually agreed upon contract. The bill would prohibit the costs associated with providing these services from being included in the FQHC's or RHC's per-visit PPS rate, and would require the costs to be adjusted out of the FQHC's or RHC's clinic base rate as a scope-of-service change.	
SB 456	Pan D	Medi-Cal managed care: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics: services that follow the patient.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would authorize a FQHC/RHC to enter into an agreement with a public or private entity willing and qualified to provide "services that follow the patient", defined as care management and coordination, health and wellness initiatives, transitional care, and individual and family support centers.	
SB 643	Pan D	The Holden-Moscone-Garamendi Genetically Handicapped Persons Program: Duchenne muscular dystrophy.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would add Duchenne muscular dystrophy to the list of medical conditions eligible for Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.	Support
SB 743	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: family planning providers.	Senate Appropriations	Codifies into state law the provision of federal law that allows Medi-Cal managed care enrollees to see any provider accepting Medicaid for family planning services.	Support

Benefits

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 447	Gray D	Medi-Cal: covered benefits: continuous glucose monitors.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would add continuous glucose monitors to the schedule of Medi-Cal benefits for the treatment of diabetes mellitus type 1 and diabetes mellitus type 2 when medically necessary and when specified criteria are met.	Support
AB 1092	Cooley D	Medi-Cal: eyeglasses.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would restore coverage of one pair of eyeglasses provided every 2 years to a Medi-Cal beneficiary who is 21 years of age or older.	Support
AB 1601	Bloom D	Hearing aids: minors.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require health insurers and plans to include coverage for hearing aids for children up to age 18, effective January 2018.	

Consumer Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1526	Kalra D	Civil actions: time of commencing.	2-Year Bill	Reforms California's statute of limitations for consumer debt (including medical debt) so that a collection agency or original creditor cannot sue after the statute has run, and requires notice to the consumer that a debt may not be litigated or reported to a credit reporting agency when such activities are time-barred. Also changes how the statute timeline is calculated.	Sponsor
SB 219	Wiener D	Long-term care facilities: rights of residents.	Senate Appropriations	Prohibits long-term care facilities from discriminating on the basis of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV status, by refusing to use a resident's preferred name or pronoun, denying admission to a long-term care facility, transferring or refusing to transfer a resident within a facility or to another facility, or involuntarily discharging a resident from a facility.	Support
SB 223	Atkins D	Health care language assistance services.	Senate Appropriations	Codifies into state law section 1557 provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Adds notice of the availability of interpreter services in 15 languages spoken by limited-English proficient Californians as identified by the Census Bureau to Medi-Cal, health insurance, and health plan enrollees.	Support
SB 239	Wiener D	Infectious and communicable diseases: HIV and AIDS: criminal penalties.	Senate Appropriations	Repeals several HIV-specific criminal laws to align them with current laws applicable to other serious communicable diseases,	Support
SB 241	Monning D	Medical records: access.	Senate Floor	This bill would allow patients to receive medical records electronically, if maintained electronically.	Support
SB 575	Leyva D	Patient access to health records.	Senate Floor	This bill would provide low-income individuals with free access to their medical records when applying for certain public benefit programs.	Sponsor
Dental					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 15	Maienschein R	Denti-Cal program: reimbursement rates.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to double the Denti-Cal provider reimbursement rates for the 15 most common prevention, treatment, and oral evaluation services for fiscal year 2017-18.	Support
AB 753	Caballero D	Denti-Cal: improved access.	2-Year Bill	This bill would require DHCS to develop and implement a DTI for adults consistent with the DTI under the Medi-Cal 2020 demonstration project and increase reimbursement rates of qualified providers using \$3 million from Tobacco Tax Fund.	
SB 508	Roth D	Medi-Cal: dental health.	2-Year Bill	This bill would would authorize an opt-in Dental Health Collaboration Pilot Program for Medi-Cal managed care enrollees in Riverside and San Bernardino, using a hybrid collaboration model that coordinates the efforts of participating health plans, dental managed care plans, and DHCS.	
SB 707	Cannella R	Medi-Cal: Denti-Cal Advisory Group.	2-Year Bill	This bill would, until January 1, 2023, establish the Denti-Cal Advisory Group to study the policies and priorities of Denti-Cal.	

Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 156	Wood D	Individual market: single risk pool: index rate.	Senate	Spot bill should the ACA be repealed. Also AB 157 and AB 417 by same author.	
SB 133	Hernandez D	Individual market: single risk pool: index rate.	Senate Floor	Spot bill should the ACA be repealed. Also SB 134 and SB 288 by same author.	
SB 562	Lara D	The Healthy California Act.	Senate Appropriations	Creates the Healthy California program to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage for all residents of the state.	Support in Concept
Managed Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 205	Wood D	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Assembly Appropriations	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill.	Support w/ amends
AB 675	Ridley-Thomas D	In-home supportive services.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would appropriate \$650 million from the General Fund to the DHCS for the purpose of continuing to make IHSS available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through Medi-Cal managed care health plans under the Coordinated Care Initiative.	
SB 171	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Senate Appropriations	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill.	Support w/ amends
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 254	Thurmond D	Local Educational Agency Pilot for Overall Needs.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS, upon appropriation of funds, to establish a pilot program to fund eligible Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to provide direct health services, including mental health services. Eligible LEAs include those that don't participate in the Medi-Cal billing option or participate but receive low reimbursement.	
AB 340	Arambula D	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen.	Support
AB 470	Arambula D	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: performance outcome dashboard.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to develop a performance outcome dashboard for specialty mental health services provided to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries, convene a stakeholder advisory committee to help create a plan for a performance outcomes dashboard, and require DHCS to post quarterly updates on website beginning January 2019.	Support
AB 488	Kiley R	Mental Health Services Act.	2-Year Bill	This bill would establish the Mental Health Services Fund Transparency and Accountability Office within the California Health and Human Services Agency. All functions regarding Mental Health Services Act, including oversight of funds, would be transferred from DHCS to the Office.	
AB 501	Ridley-Thomas D	Mental health: community care facilities.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would authorize a short-term residential therapeutic program to be operated as a children's crisis residential program, to be regulated by DSS, and would require DHCS to establish interim Medi-Cal rates for children's crisis residential services.	

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AB 727	Nazarian D	Mental Health Services Act: housing assistance.	Senate	This bill would clarify that counties may spend MHPA moneys on housing assistance for persons with severe mental illnesses.	Support
AB 850	Chau D	Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.	Senate	This bill would require the Governor to appoint an additional member to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission who has knowledge and experience in reducing mental health disparities, especially for racial and ethnic communities.	Support
SB 191	Beall D	Pupil health: mental health and substance use disorder services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would incentivize partnerships between county and local educational agencies through coordination of service teams that consider referrals for services, oversee school-wide efforts, and use data-informed processes to identify struggling pupils who require early interventions and targeted interventions for pupils with identified social-emotional, behavioral, and academic needs.	Support
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 595	Wood D	Health care service plans: mergers and acquisitions.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require specified entities that intend to merge with, consolidate, acquire, purchase, or control a health care service plan to hold public hearing on proposal, secure approval from the Director of the DMHC, and apply for licensure as a health care service plan.	Support
AB 989	Cooper D	Income tax: health savings accounts.	Assembly Appropriations	Would allow for a deduction in California income tax for Health Savings Accounts to match the federal deduction starting in 2019. AB 1140 was nearly identical, but its author, Assemblymember Obernolte, has now joined this bill.	Oppose
AB 1135	Wood D	California Marijuana Tax Fund.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DPH and CDE to establish a public stakeholder process to determine a disbursement formula for the funds provided to DHCS from the California Marijuana Tax Fund and require DHCS to consider the stakeholder's findings when determining funding priorities for those moneys.	Support
SB 54	De León D	Law enforcement: sharing data.	Assembly	Makes California a sanctuary state for immigrants to the extent allowed by federal law.	Support
SB 244	Lara D	Privacy: agencies: personal information.	Senate Appropriations	Directs that personal information shall only be collected and retained by state agencies and those contracted to administer public services or programs for the purpose of assessing eligibility for and providing those public services and programs for which the application has been submitted.	Support
SB 354	Portantino D	Special education: individualized education programs: translation services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require the local educational agency (LEA) to provide parents whose native language is not English with timely access to a translation of their child's individualized education plan (IEP) and other key documents.	Support
SB 623	Monning D	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.	Senate Appropriations	Establishes a continuously appropriated Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to expend money in the fund for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist those without access to safe and affordable drinking water.	Support

Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 265	Wood D	Prescription drugs: prohibition on price discount.	Assembly Appropriations	Prohibits pharmaceuticals from offering discounts that reduce an individual's out-of-pocket expenses, copayments or deductible, for any prescription drug if a lower cost brand name or nonbrand name prescription drug is available that is therapeutically equivalent to the prescription drug manufactured by that person.	
AB 1353	Waldron R	Health care coverage: prescription drugs: continuity of care.	2-Year Bill	Requires health plans to establish a exception request process for prior authorization for enrollees who are medically stable and were previously prescribed a drug within past 100 days. Requires health plans to respond to an exception request within 72 hours, or 24 hours if exigent circumstances exist.	Support
SB 17	Hernandez D	Health care: prescription drug costs.	Senate Appropriations	Requires drug makers to give notice to purchasers before raising prices and requires health plans to report the proportion of the premiums spent on prescription drugs.	Support
Providers					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 148	Mathis R	California Physician Corps Program: practice setting.	Senate	This bill would require, for the Steve Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, that the clinic or the physician owned and operated medical practice setting have at least 30% of patients, if the area is rural, or at least 50% of patients, if the area is urban, on Medi-Cal.	
AB 387	Thurmond D	Minimum wage: health professionals: interns.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would expand the minimum wage rules to apply to allied health professionals who are supervised to satisfy requirements for licensure, registration, or certification by expanding the definition of employer.	Support
AB 651	Muratsuchi D	Nonprofit health facilities: sale of assets: Attorney General approval.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires the Attorney General to consider the adverse impact on significant cultural interests in the affected community when a non-profit health facility is being sold and to ensure that notices of public meetings prior to the approval of a sale be in all languages widely spoken in the county.	Support
AB 1534	Nazarian D	Health care coverage: HIV specialists.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows HIV specialists to be primary care providers and subject to the requirements of primary care providers in Knox Keene and the Insurance Code if the provider requests to be designated as such.	
SB 396	Lara D	University of California: California Medical Residency Training Pilot Program.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would request the creation of the Medical Residency Training Pilot Program under the University of California (UC) to give highly qualified medical students regardless of their immigration status access to residency training programs at its teaching hospitals.	Support

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