

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of June 7, 2017

Below is a list of bills that impact access to health care for low-income Californians. All bills with a fiscal cost had to pass out of Appropriations by May 26. Bills must pass out of their house of origin by June 2. If a bill is in its second house, it passed off the floor in its first house. If a bill's location is noted as "HELD", it was held in the Appropriations suspense file and is not moving forward. Bills that did not meet deadline, but can still move forward are noted as "2 Year Bills".

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 74	Chiu	Housing.	Senate	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	Medi-Cal.	Senate Health	Spot bill for Medi-Cal in case of ACA repeal. Also allows ABX1-1 report to be issued 90 days after the close of the quarter rather than 30 and pushes out reporting deadline for CCS Whole Child Model program should implementation of the program be delayed.	Support
AB 286	Gipson	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: home upkeep allowances: transitional needs funds.	HELD	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	Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services.	Senate	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	Medi-Cal: targeted case management.	Senate	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	Public social services: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.	Senate Human Services	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	Medi-Cal.	Assembly Health	Spot bill for Medi-Cal in case of ACA repeal. Also allows ABX1-1 report to be issued 90 days after the close of the quarter rather than 30 and pushes out reporting deadline for CCS Whole Child Model program should implementation of the program be delayed.	Support
SB 202	Dodd	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: personal needs allowance.	HELD	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	The Qualified ABLE Program: tax-advantaged savings accounts.	Assembly	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	Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel.	Assembly Health	This bill would revise the qualification criteria for the 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 child.	
SB 222	Hernandez	Inmates: health care enrollment.	HELD	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-enrolling prior to release.	Support
SB 323	Mitchell	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health centers: Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services.	Assembly	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	Medi-Cal managed care: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics: services that follow the patient.	Assembly	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	The Holden-Moscone-Garamendi Genetically Handicapped Persons Program: Duchenne muscular dystrophy.	Assembly	This bill would add Duchenne muscular dystrophy to the list of medical conditions eligible for Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.	Support
SB 743	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: family planning providers.	Assembly	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	Medi-Cal: covered benefits: continuous glucose monitors.	Senate	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, subject to utilization controls.	Support
AB 1092	Cooley	Medi-Cal: eyeglasses.	Senate	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, subject to appropriation by the Legislature.	Support
AB 1601	Bloom	Hearing aids: minors.	HELD	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
SB 219	Wiener	Long-term care facilities: rights of residents.	Assembly	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	Health care language assistance services.	Assembly	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	Infectious and communicable diseases: HIV and AIDS: criminal penalties.	Assembly	Repeals several HIV-specific criminal laws to align them with current laws applicable to other serious communicable diseases,	Support
SB 241	Monning	Medical records: access.	Assembly Health	This bill would allow patients to receive medical records electronically, if maintained electronically.	Support
SB 575	Leyva	Patient access to health records.	Assembly Health	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.	HELD	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
Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 156	Wood	Individual market: single risk pool: index rate.	Senate Health	Spot bill should the ACA be repealed. Also AB 157 and AB 417 by same author.	
SB 133	Hernandez	Individual market: single risk pool: index rate.	Assembly Health	Spot bill should the ACA be repealed. Also SB 134 and SB 288 by same author.	
SB 562	Lara	The Healthy California Act.	Assembly	Creates the Healthy California program to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage for all residents of the state. Amended to not become operative until funded.	
SR 41	De León	Relative to health care coverage.	Senate Floor	Would resolve that the California State Senate calls upon the Senate of the United States to thoughtfully and carefully consider the full impact of any measures that amend, revise, or repeal provisions of the ACA, commends the Senate of the United States for acting independently by developing its own proposal, to ensure there is adequate public review and input from the health care industry, consumers, and other stakeholders, and to ensure that the Congressional Budget Office has provided estimates of a final version and that it is in print and available to the public for at least 72 hours.	Support

Managed Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 205	Wood	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Senate	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill.	Support
AB 675	Ridley-Thomas	In-home supportive services.	HELD	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	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Assembly	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill.	
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 254	Thurmond	Local Educational Agency Behavioral Health Integration Pilot Program.	Senate	This bill would require DHCS to establish the Local Educational Agency Behavioral Health Integration Pilot Program to improve the behavioral health outcomes of students through a whole person care approach by providing direct behavioral health services using MHSA funds.	
AB 340	Arambula	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.	Senate	This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen.	Support
AB 470	Arambula	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: performance outcome dashboard.	Senate	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 501	Ridley-Thomas	Mental health: community care facilities.	Senate	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.	
AB 727	Nazarian	Mental Health Services Act: housing assistance.	Senate Health	This bill would clarify that counties may spend MHSA moneys on housing assistance for persons with severe mental illnesses.	Support
AB 850	Chau	Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.	Senate Health	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
AB 1315	Mullin	Mental health: early psychosis detection and intervention.	Senate	This bill would create an early psychosis detection and intervention competitive selection process to expand the provision of early psychosis detection and intervention services by providing funding to counties that agree to providing matching funds.	Support
SB 191	Beall	Pupil health: mental health and substance use disorder services.	HELD	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

Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 265	Wood	Prescription drugs: prohibition on price discount.	Senate	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.	
SB 17	Hernandez	Health care: prescription drug costs.	Assembly	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	California Physician Corps Program: practice setting.	Senate Health	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	Minimum wage: health professionals: interns.	2-Year Bill	This bill would expand the minimum wage rules to apply to allied health professionals who engage in supervised work experience over 100 hours to satisfy requirements for licensure, registration, or certification, excluding employers with 25 or fewer allied health professionals.	Support
AB 651	Muratsuchi	Nonprofit health facilities: sale of assets: Attorney General approval.	Senate Health	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	Health care coverage: HIV specialists.	Senate	Permits HIV specialists to be primary care providers and subject to the requirements of primary care providers in Knox Keene if the provider requests to be designated as such.	
SB 396	Lara	University of California: California Medical Residency Training Pilot Program.	Assembly	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
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 595	Wood	Health care service plans: mergers and acquisitions.	2-Year Bill	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	Income tax: health savings accounts.	HELD	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

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AB 1135	Wood	California Marijuana Tax Fund.	HELD	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	Law enforcement: sharing data.	Assembly Public Safety	Makes California a sanctuary state for immigrants to the extent allowed by federal law.	Support
SB 244	Lara	Privacy: agencies: personal information.	Assembly	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	Special education: individualized education programs: translation services.	Assembly	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, applying only for the top 8 non-English languages in each school district.	Support
SB 623	Monning	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.	Assembly	Establishes a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund as appropriated by the Legislature. Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to spend money in the fund for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist those without access to safe and affordable drinking water.	Support

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