

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of March 13, 2014

The Legislature had until February 22 to introduce new bills. The next several months will see a lot of movement with bills going through their first hearings and then to Appropriations Committee, if applicable. Assembly and Senate Health Committees will start hearing bills on March 25 and 26, respectively, and fiscal bills must be heard by May 2. Bills currently listed as “2 year” have gotten through their house of origin and can be taken up at any time during the rest of the legislative session, which lasts through August. Western Center will keep you apprised of legislation as it moves through the process.

Elizabeth Landsberg and Vanessa Cajina are Western Center’s legislative advocates working on health care issues. We indicate below which advocate you can contact for more information about a particular bill. If Western Center has taken a formal position, the WCLP Position on a bill it is noted.

Medi-Cal

[AB 1644](#) ([Medina](#) D) **Medi-Cal: Drug Medi-Cal Program providers.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require a county or DHCS to obtain criminal background information to determine if the owner has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving fraud and to request subsequent arrest notification for those crimes before contracting with a certified DMC provider. The bill would also limit the term of contracts with DMC providers to a maximum of 2 years.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 1955](#) ([Pan](#) D) **Medi-Cal: Administrative Claiming process.**

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: Spot bill on Medi-Cal administrative claims processes. Current law establishes an Administrative Claiming process under which local governmental agencies and local educational consortia contract with the department for the purpose of obtaining federal matching funds to assist with the performance of administrative activities relating to the Medi-Cal program.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 2025](#) ([Dickinson](#) D) **Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: Would increase the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled program income threshold to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level by increasing the income disregards.

WCLP Position: Sponsor

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Western Center Health Legislation Summary March 13, 2014

AB 2051 (Gonzalez D) Medi-Cal: providers: affiliate primary care clinics.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require DHCS, within 15 days after receiving an application and certification package from an applicant that is an affiliate primary care clinic, to provide specified written notice of the status of the application, or to approve the application on the 16th day after receiving the package, as specified. The bill would also require the department, within 15 days after approving an application, to provide written notice regarding certain conditions imposed on the provider, or, on the 16th day after approving an application, to approve the provider's participation in specified public health programs.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

SB 508 (Hernandez D) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Location: Assembly Desk

Summary: This bill would codify the MAGI Medi-Cal income eligibility thresholds for parents and caretaker relatives, children, and pregnant women, eliminate the deprivation requirement for the Medically Needy Medi-Cal program, and make some technical changes to the Medi-program for former foster youth up to age 26.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 1002 (De León D) Medi-Cal: redetermination.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would align Medi-Cal redetermination with the CalFresh certification period when a CalFresh application or recertification application is submitted.

WCLP Position: Sponsor

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 1045 (Beall D) Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program: group outpatient drug free services.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would reduce from 4 to 2 the minimum number of individuals required for a Medi-Cal group treatment program, at least one of which is a Medi-Cal eligible beneficiary.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

SB 1089 (Mitchell D) Medi-Cal: juvenile inmates.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: Current law requires DHCS to develop a process to allow counties to receive available federal financial participation for acute inpatient hospital services and inpatient psychiatric services provided to juvenile inmates who are admitted as inpatients in a medical institution. This bill would provide that the process developed be implemented in only those counties that elect to provide the county's pro rata portion of the nonfederal share of the state's administrative costs.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 1124 (Hernandez D) Health care service plans.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill will be amended to be the Medi-Cal estate recovery bill to limit estate recovery to the federal requirements.

WCLP Position: Sponsor

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

Western Center Health Legislation Summary March 13, 2014

[SB 1150](#) ([Hueso D](#)) **Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers to bill for 2 visits in one day at a single location when either after the first visit the patient suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis or treatment or the patient has a medical visit, as defined, and another health visit, as defined, or both.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1212](#) ([Walters R](#)) **Medi-Cal: moratoria on enrollment of providers.**

Location: Senate Rules

Summary: Spot bill amending section of Welfare and Institutions Code dealing with moratoria on Medi-Cal provider enrollment.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1224](#) ([Correa D](#)) **Federally qualified health centers and rural health centers.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers to bill for 2 visits in one day at a single location when either after the first visit the patient suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis or treatment or the patient has a medical visit, as defined, and another health visit, as defined, or both.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1322](#) ([Hernandez D](#)) **Medi-Cal: preventive services: providers.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require DHCS to reimburse Medi-Cal providers for, and would require Medi-Cal managed care plans to cover, preventive services provided by a health care practitioner not subject to professional licensure by the state, that have been recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of healing arts acting within the scope of that physician's or practitioner's license. The bill would provide that this coverage is available only to the extent that federal financial participation in the cost of providing these services is available.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1339](#) ([Cannella R](#)) **Medi-Cal: Drug Medi-Cal Program providers.**

Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would require a county or DHCS, before contracting with a certified DMC provider, to obtain criminal background information for its owners and key staff, as defined, and to request subsequent arrest notification. The bill would authorize a county or the department to contract with a certified DMC provider irrespective of the contents of the state summary criminal history information.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1341](#) ([Mitchell D](#)) **Medi-Cal: Statewide Automated Welfare System.**

Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would require the county Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) to be the system of record for Medi-Cal and to contain all Medi-Cal eligibility rules and case management functionality. The bill would also house the functionality for notices of action for Medi-Cal in SAWS.

WCLP Position: Support with Amends

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[SB 1374](#) ([Hernandez](#) D) **Medi-Cal: ambulance services.**

Location: Senate Print

Summary: Spot bill on emergency transportation and ambulance services in Medi-Cal.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1457](#) ([Evans](#) D) **Medical care: electronic treatment authorization requests.**

Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would require that Treatment Authorization Requests and Service Authorization Requests be submitted electronically to DHCS by July 1, 2015, or a subsequent date determined by DHCS.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Medi-Cal Managed Care

[AB 209](#) ([Pan](#) D) **Medi-Cal: managed care: quality, accessibility, and utilization.**

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would require DHCS to develop and implement a plan to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality and accessibility of health care and dental services provided through Medi-Cal managed care, including holding quarterly public meetings and appointing an advisory committee to make recommendations to the department and the Legislature.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 964](#) ([Hernandez](#) D) **Health care service plans: medical surveys.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would specify that a plan that provides services solely to Medi-Cal beneficiaries is not exempt from the medical survey with respect to quality management, utilization review, timely access, network adequacy, and any other requirements related to access and availability, except as specified. The bill would require a plan that provides services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and a plan that provides services to enrollees in the California Health Benefit Exchange to be surveyed separately with respect to those products.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 986](#) ([Hernandez](#) D) **Medi-Cal: managed care: seniors and persons with disabilities.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require the DHCS to ensure that the managed care health plans participating in the Coordinated Care Initiative demonstration project and SPDs provide timely access to out-of-network providers for new individual members and fully comply with the continuity of care requirements.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1452](#) ([Wolk](#) D) **Medi-Cal: managed care.**

Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would provide that a Medi-Cal beneficiary for whom a conservator has been appointed under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act shall be exempt from mandatory enrollment in a Medi-Cal managed care plan.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Access to Care

Western Center Health Legislation Summary March 13, 2014

AB 1771 (V. Manuel Pérez D) Telephonic and electronic patient management services.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require health plans or insurers to cover physician telephonic and electronic patient management services and to reimburse those services at the same level and amount as face-to-face patient encounters with similar complexity and time expenditure. This bill would not require those services be delivered electronically if the provider determines face-to-face contact is medically necessary.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

AB 2659 (Brown D) Health Access Zones: income tax: credits.

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: This bill would create and define "Health Access Zones" in geographic locations with high health disparities and low rates of healthcare providers and develop tax and economic incentives for hiring in those zones.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

SB 1005 (Lara D) Health care coverage: immigration status.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would expand Medi-Cal to immigrants who would otherwise qualify for Medi-Cal, but for their immigration status. This bill would also create a state-based Health Benefits Exchange to provide immigrants who would qualify for federally-funded Advanced Premium Tax Credits and other cost sharing reductions but for their immigration status.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

SCA 5 (Hernandez D) Public education: student recruitment and selection.

Location: Assembly Desk

Summary: This bill would allow educational institutions to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin when making admissions decisions.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Benefits

AB 1755 (Gomez D) Medical information.

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: will be CalFed bill to do study on employers with employees on public benefits

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

AB 1868 (Gomez D) Medi-Cal: optional benefits: podiatric medicine.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would cover medical and surgical services provided by a doctor of podiatric medicine in the Medi-Cal program.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Billing

SB 1276 (Hernandez D) Health care: fair billing policies.

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Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require hospitals to collect no more than 5% of a billed patients monthly income if that patient is below 350% FPL. This bill would allow consumers with high out of pocket costs to qualify for discount billing if their health plan or insurer negotiates a high bill on their behalf. This bill would allow discount billing applications and all other subsidized coverage program applications to be processed simultaneously.

WCLP Position: Sponsor

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Dental

[AB 1174](#) ([Bocanegra D](#)) Dental professionals: teledentistry under Medi-Cal.

Location: Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development

Summary: This bill would allow a registered dental assistant to expand some of their duties and authorizes Medi-Cal payments for teledentistry services provided to Medi-Cal enrollees.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Exchange

[AB 1560](#) ([Gorell R](#)) California Health Benefit Exchange: confidentiality of personal information.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit the Exchange from disclosing an individual's personal information to 3rd parties for determining eligibility for, or enrolling in health coverage unless the Exchange obtains prior written consent. The bill would also require the Exchange to immediately notify the public of any breach of the security of personal information created, collected, or maintained by the Exchange, regardless of the severity of the breach.

WCLP Position: Concerns

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 1829](#) ([Conway R](#)) California Health Benefit Exchange: employees and contractors.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit the Exchange from hiring or contracting with a person who has been convicted of certain crimes, including a felony crime of dishonesty or breach of trust in a state or federal jurisdiction and crimes involving insurance if the person's duties would involve facilitating enrollment in qualified health plans or would give the person access to the financial or medical information of enrollees or potential enrollees of the Exchange.

WCLP Position: Concerns

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 1830](#) ([Conway R](#)) California Health Benefit Exchange: confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would, where the Exchange creates or collects personally identifiable information for the purpose of determining eligibility, authorize the Exchange to use or disclose that information only to the extent necessary to carry out specified functions. The bill would prohibit a contractor, subcontractor, volunteer, or vendor of the Exchange who gains access to personally identifiable information from using or disclosing that information other than to the extent necessary to carry out those duties.

[AB 1877](#) ([Cooley D](#)) California Vision Care Access Council.

Location: Assembly Health

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Summary: This bill would establish the California Vision Care Access Council - an Exchange marketplace for vision coverage plans governed by a 5-member Board. The Council would work with the Exchange to set up a direct link between the Web site of the Exchange and the Web site of the Council to connect consumers of the Exchange to the vision marketplace.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

AB 2375 (Dababneh D) California Health Benefit Exchange: navigators.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require the Health Benefits Exchange board to ensure that the performance standards selected for navigators are not so burdensome as to prevent a qualified entity from applying.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

AB 2456 (Melendez R) Health care.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require the Exchange to submit to a complete and detailed budget utilizing performance-based budgeting that sets forth all proposed expenditures and estimated revenues for the ensuing fiscal year. The bill would require the Exchange to develop a process for consulting with contractors or other responsible entities and stakeholders to develop information related to performance standards and program performance.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 959 (Hernandez D) Health care coverage: small group and individual markets: single risk pool: index rate.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill clarifies that the individual and small group market health insurance index rates must also be adjusted for Exchange (Covered California) user fees pursuant to federal regulations.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

SB 972 (Torres D) California Health Benefit Exchange: board: membership.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would increase the number of Exchange board members from 5 to 7, with the 2 additional board members being appointed by the Governor. The bill would also add marketing of health insurance products, information technology system management, management information systems, and consumer service delivery research and best practices to the list of areas of expertise.

WCLP Position: Concerns

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 974 (Anderson R) California Health Benefit Exchange: confidentiality of personal information.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit the Exchange, or any of its employees, agents, subcontractors, representatives, or partners from disclosing an individual's personal information to any other person or entity without explicit permission from the individual. The bill would also require the Exchange to report a disclosure of personal information to the individuals affected and the Legislature within 5 business days of the date the disclosure is discovered.

WCLP Position: Concerns

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

SB 1052 (Torres D) California Health Benefit Exchange: annual report.

Location: Senate Health

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Summary: Current law requires the Exchange board to annually prepare a written report on the implementation and performance of the Exchange functions. This bill, in addition, would require the report to include the total number of uninsured Californians as a percentage of the state population and an independent evaluation of Exchange marketing and outreach and enrollment activities.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

Health Care Reform

[AB 617](#) ([Nazarian D](#)) California Health Benefit Exchange: appeals.

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would establish a notice and appeals process for eligibility determinations related to the Exchange, MAGI Medi-Cal and AIM.

WCLP Position: Sponsor

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 2088](#) ([Hernández, Roger D](#)) Health insurance: minimum value: specified disease and hospital confinement policies.

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: This bill would require that health insurance with less than 60% minimum value or policies for specific diseases or hospital indemnity coverage only be sold to large employers as supplemental coverage and not as a substitute for coverage providing minimum essential coverage.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 2601](#) ([Morrell R](#)) California Health Benefit Exchange: appeals.

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: Spot bill on Exchange appeals.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AJR 23](#) ([Logue R](#)) Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: requirement to purchase health insurance.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This measure would urge the President to remove any financial oversight responsibilities of the Internal Revenue Service with regard to the administration of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and instead have those duties transferred to a separate board, created by and accountable to Congress.

WCLP Position: Oppose

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[SB 18](#) ([Hernandez D](#)) California Health Benefits Review Program: health insurance.

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would include essential health benefits and the impact on the California Health Benefit Exchange in the areas to be reported on by the California Health Benefits Review Program.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1053](#) ([Mitchell D](#)) Health care coverage: contraceptives.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require health plans and insurers to provide coverage for all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products in each contraceptive category outlined by the FDA, as well as sterilization procedures and contraceptive education and counseling, and would prohibit a plan or insurer from engaging in unreasonable medical management, as defined, in providing that coverage.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

Health Plans

[AB 2015](#) ([Chau D](#)) **Health care coverage: discrimination.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit a health care service plan or health insurer from discriminating against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of that provider's license or certification, as specified, beginning January 1, 2015.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 2400](#) ([Ridley-Thomas D](#)) **Health care coverage: physician contracts.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit a health plans from requiring in their contracts with physicians that the physician participate in any product that provides different rates, methods of payment, or lines of business unless that participation is negotiated and agreed to between the health care service plan or health insurer and the physician.

WCLP Position: Concerns

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1182](#) ([Leno D](#)) **Health care coverage: rate review.**

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require large group health coverage purchasers to report to DMHC rate increases that are more than 5% of current rates 60 days prior to that rate increase going into effect. This bill would also require that plans annually disclose rate filings and specify claims in reporting categories. This would also require plans to provide those claims data to large group purchasers upon request.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1241](#) ([Leno D](#)) **Health care coverage: marketplace transparency.**

Location: Senate Rules

Summary: This is a spot bill that declares the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to increase transparency in the health care service plan contract and health insurance policy marketplace.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Individual Market

[AB 1507](#) ([Logue R](#)) **Health care coverage.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would allow a nongrandfathered individual or small employer health benefit plan in effect on October 1, 2013 to be renewed until October 1, 2014, and to continue to be in force until December 31, 2014. The bill would exempt a nongrandfathered individual or small employer health benefit plan in effect on October 1, 2013, and that is renewed between January 1, 2014, and October, 1, 2014.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 2367](#) ([Donnelly R](#)) **Personal income taxes: credits: health care coverage.**

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation

Summary: For people whose individual insurance was cancelled, this bill would allow a tax credit equal to the difference between the cost of the annual premium in an individual health care plan or

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insurance policy they are paying now and the premium the person would have paid for their cancelled individual policy.

WCLP Position: Oppose

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 2433](#) ([Mansoor R](#)) Health care coverage: catastrophic plans.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would deem people whose individual coverage was cancelled between December 2013 and March 2014 to have faced a hardship which allows them to buy a catastrophic plan.

WCLP Position: Oppose

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[SB 1376](#) ([Gaines R](#)) Personal income taxes: credit: health care coverage.

Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would, for taxable years 2014 and 2015, allow a credit equal to 50% of the annual premium amount for an individual health plan contract or individual health insurance policy if their individual health policy was canceled between December 31, 2013, and December 31, 2014 and the individual was not eligible for Advanced Premium Tax Credits through the Exchange.

WCLP Position: Oppose

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

Language Access

[AB 505](#) ([Nazarian D](#)) Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would codify the Medi-Cal managed care thresholds for translated documents.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 2325](#) ([John A. Pérez D](#)) Medi-Cal: CommuniCal.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require DHCS to establish the Medi-Cal Patient-Centered Communication program (CommuniCal), to be administered by a 3rd-party administrator, to, commencing July 1, 2015, provide and reimburse for medical interpretation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient (LEP).

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 204](#) ([Corbett D](#)) Prescription drugs: labeling.

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would require pharmacies to use translated instructions in non-English languages published on the Board of Pharmacy website.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Managed Care

[AB 369](#) ([Pan D](#)) Continuity of care.

Location: Assembly Enrollment

Summary: Would require a health plan or insurer to arrange for the completion of covered services by a nonparticipating provider for a newly covered enrollee and a newly covered insured under an individual health care service plan contract or an individual health insurance policy whose prior coverage was withdrawn from the market between December 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

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[AB 889](#) ([Frazier](#) D) Health care coverage: prescription drugs.

Location: 2 Year

Summary: This bill would impose specified requirements on health plans that restrict medications pursuant to step therapy or fail first protocol.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 917](#) ([Gaines](#) R) Health care coverage: provider information.

Location: Senate Rules

Summary: This bill would require health plans and disability insurers to provide daily updates on their websites on the lists of contracting primary care providers, medical groups, independent practice associations, and hospitals. Health plans would be required include a statement that states that the information in the plan's provider directory is subject to change.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[SB 1100](#) ([Hernandez](#) D) Continuity of care.

Location: Senate Health

Summary: This bill would require a health plan to include notice of the process to obtain continuity of care in every evidence of coverage issued after January 1, 2015. The bill would also require a plan to provide a written copy of this information to its contracting providers and provider groups, as well as a copy to its enrollees upon request.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Medical Debt

[AB 1558](#) ([Hernández, Roger](#) D) California Health Data Organization.

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would create an All Payer Claims Database, requiring health plans and insurers to provide claims data to UC to explanations of benefits or explanations of review to that organization to the extent permitted by organize the data and design and a Web site that allows consumers to compare the prices paid by carriers for procedures.

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[AB 2576](#) ([Harkey](#) R) Income tax: health savings accounts.

Location: Assembly Print

Summary: This bill would allow a deduction in connection with health savings accounts in conformity with federal law.

WCLP Position: Oppose

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

[SB 1176](#) ([Steinberg](#) D) Health care coverage: consumer notice.

Location: Senate Rules

Summary: Spot bill to require health plans and insurers to notify a consumer when they have reached the maximum limits related to his or her copay, coinsurance, and deductible as stipulated in the consumer's contract.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Elizabeth

Mental Health

[AB 2212](#) ([Gray](#) D) **Medi-Cal: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require DHCS to permit county mental health plans to contract with local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide services for Medi-Cal eligible pupils under EPSDT. The bill would also require the department to permit a county mental health plan to obtain FFP on behalf of nonpublic agencies that contract with an LEA to provide EPSDT services if the LEA does not have a contract with the county mental health plan. The bill would also require the department to examine methodologies for increasing LEA participation in the Medi-Cal program so that schools can meet the educationally related health care needs of their pupils.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Prescription Drugs

[AB 2418](#) ([Bonilla](#) D) **Health care coverage: prescription drug refills.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would require a health care plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2015, that provides prescription drug benefits and imposes a mandatory mail order restriction for all or some covered prescription drugs to establish a process allowing enrollees and insureds to opt out of the restriction.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Provider Reimbursement

[AB 900](#) ([Alejo](#) D) **Medi-Cal: reimbursement: distinct part nursing facilities.**

Location: On Assembly Appropriations Suspense file

Summary: This bill would require that the 10% Medi-Cal rate reduction established per AB 97 not apply to skilled nursing facilities that are a distinct part of a general acute care hospital, for dates of service on or after July 1, 2013, subject to necessary federal approvals.

WCLP Position: Support

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 1124](#) ([Muratsuchi](#) D) **Medi-Cal: reimbursement rates.**

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Summary: This bill would exempt laboratory providers from certain payment reductions until July 1, 2015, and would require DHCS to adopt emergency regulations by January 1, 2015.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

[AB 1805](#) ([Skinner](#) D) **Medi-Cal: reimbursement: provider payments.**

Location: Assembly Health

Summary: This bill would prohibit the application Medi-Cal provider rate reductions for dates of service on or after June 1, 2011.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

Providers

[SB 1340](#) ([Hernandez](#) D) **Health care coverage: provider contracts.**

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Location: Senate Print

Summary: This bill would prohibit a contract between a plan or insurer and a provider or supplier from containing a provision that restricts the ability of the plan or insurer to furnish information to consumers or purchasers concerning the cost range of a procedure or full course of treatment or the quality of services performed by the provider or supplier. The bill would require a plan or insurer to provide a provider or supplier with at least 30 days to review the methodology and data used and would make related, conforming changes.

WCLP Advocate: Vanessa

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