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**Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 1, 2014**

Following is a summary of bills that passed through the Legislature and have gone to the Governor’s desk that impact the health of low-income Californians. The Governor had until September 30 to sign or veto bills. Western Center is pleased to report the Governor signed several bills that will benefit low-income consumers. Unfortunately, despite widespread support and no organizational opposition, the Governor vetoed SB 1124 (Hernandez), a bill that would have limited Medi-Cal estate recovery to what was federally required. Western Center is committed to working on this bill next year. More details as well as a brief summary of the veto message is provided below.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Governor action	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 809	Logue R	Healing arts: telehealth.	Signed	This bill allows the informed consent for telehealth to be given in writing and requires the consent be documented.	Neutral
AB 1174	Bocanegra D	Dental professionals.	Signed	This bill authorizes Medi-Cal payments for teledentistry services and expand the duties of registered dental assistants and hygienists.	
AB 1792	Gomez D	Public benefits: reports on employers.	Signed	This bill requires the Department of Finance to identify and post on its website each employer that employs 100 or more beneficiaries enrolled in Medi-Cal.	Support
SB 508	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Signed	This bill codifies the MAGI Medi-Cal income levels, eliminates the deprivation requirement for Medically Needy Medi-Cal and makes some technical changes to Medi-Cal for former foster youth.	Support
SB 964	Hernandez D	Health care coverage.	Signed	This bill increases oversight of health plans with respect to compliance with timely access and provider network adequacy standards.	Support
SB 1002	De León D	Low-income individuals: eligibility determinations.	Vetoed - Unnecessary as currently work with federal government to implement	This bill would allow automatic renewal of Medi-Cal for people enrolled in CalFresh and determination or redetermination of CalFresh for people in Medi-Cal.	Sponsor
SB 1124	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: estate recovery.	Vetoed - Does not align with signed budget	This bill would limit recovery from the estate of a deceased Medi-Cal beneficiary to only those costs that the state is required to recover under federal law.	Sponsor
SB 1315	Monning D	Medi-Cal: providers.	Signed	This bill requires a notice of temporary suspension issued to a Medi-Cal health care provider by DHCS to include a list of discrepancies required to be remediated and timeframe for remediation.	

<b>SB 1341</b>	<b>Mitchell D</b>	Medi-Cal: Statewide Automated Welfare System.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires the county Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) to be the system of record for Medi-Cal and to house the functionality for notices of action for Medi-Cal in SAWS.	Support
<b>SB 1457</b>	<b>Evans D</b>	Medical care: electronic treatment authorization requests.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires that Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) in Medi-Cal, CCS, and GHPP be electronic by July 1, 2016, except dental TARs.	
<b>Language Access</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
<b>AB 505</b>	<b>Nazarian D</b>	Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill codifies the Medi-Cal managed care threshold languages for translated documents.	Support
<b>AB 2325</b>	<b>John A. Pérez D</b>	Medi-Cal: CommuniCal.	<b>Vetoed - Costly especially in light of Medi-Cal expansion</b>	This bill would require DHCS to establish program for certified medical interpreters for Medi-Cal.	Support
<b>SB 204</b>	<b>Corbett D</b>	Prescription drugs: labeling.	<b>Vetoed - Board lacks resources to implement bill</b>	This bill would require the Board of Pharmacy to conduct a survey of the use of standardized medication instructions and to publish survey findings on its website.	Support
<b>Health Care Reform</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Governor action</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
<b>AB 617</b>	<b>Nazarian D</b>	California Health Benefit Exchange: appeals.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill establishes notice and appeals processes for eligibility determinations related to the Exchange and MAGI Medi-Cal programs.	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>AB 2088</b>	<b>Hernández, Roger D</b>	Health insurance: minimum value: large group market policies.	<b>Vetoed - May violate federal law</b>	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 minimum essential coverage.	
<b>AB 2706</b>	<b>Hernández, Roger D</b>	Schools: health care coverage: enrollment assistance.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires public schools to ensure their enrollment forms include how to be referred for information regarding health coverage options and enrollment assistance.	
<b>SB 18</b>	<b>Leno D</b>	Medi-Cal renewal.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires DHCS to accept \$6 million from private foundations, to be matched with federal funds, to provide Medi-Cal renewal assistance payments.	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>SB 1053</b>	<b>Mitchell D</b>	Health care coverage: contraceptives.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires health plans and insurers to provide coverage for all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products in each contraceptive category as well as sterilization procedures and contraceptive education and counseling, and prohibits a plan or insurer from engaging in unreasonable medical management in providing that coverage.	

Exchange					
Measure	Author	Topic	Governor action	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1877	Cooley D	California Vision Care Access Council.	<b>Vetoed - Not necessary, diverts Covered CA focus, and may violate federal rules</b>	This bill would establish the California Vision Care Access Council - an Exchange marketplace for vision coverage plans.	
SB 1052	Torres D	Health care coverage.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires health plans and insurers that provide prescription drug benefits to post those formularies on their websites, update that posting monthly, and use the standard formulary template - to be jointly created by DMHC and CDI.	Support
Medical Debt					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 1256	Mitchell D	Medical services: credit.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill prohibits a healing arts licensee from arranging for credit extended by a 3rd party for a patient without first providing a written notice and treatment plan, and prohibits that arrangement t of credit with regard to a patient who has been administered or is under the influence of general anesthesia, conscious sedation, or nitrous oxide.	
SB 1276	Hernandez D	Health care: fair billing policies.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires hospitals and emergency room physicians to collect no more than 10% of a billed patients monthly income if that patient is below 350% FPL and expands eligibility for charity care and discount payment programs to patients with insurance.	Sponsor
Insurance Market Reforms					
Measure	Author	Topic	Governor action	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2418	Bonilla D	Health care coverage: prescription drugs: refills.	<b>Vetoed - Lacks explicit patient consent before changes to refills are made and more collaboration is needed</b>	This bill would require health plan contracts and health insurance policies to allow for the synchronization of prescription refills, and allows for early refills for covered eye products.	
SB 959	Hernandez D	Health care coverage.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires a health plan or insurer to use a single risk pool.	
SB 1182	Leno D	Health care coverage: claims data.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill requires health plans and insurers to share specified data with purchasers that have 1,000 or more enrollees or that are multiemployer trusts.	
SB 1340	Hernandez D	Health care coverage: provider contracts.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill prohibits contracts between health plans or insurers and hospitals that restrict health plans/insurers from furnishing information about the cost range of procedures or the quality of services performed.	
SB 1446	DeSaulnier D	Health care coverage: small employer market.	<b>Signed</b>	This bill authorizes a small employer health plan or insurer that does not comply with specified reforms under the ACA to be renewed and continue to be in force through 2015.	

Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Governor action	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2546	Salas D	Kern County Hospital Authority.	Signed	This bill authorizes the County of Kern to establish the Kern County Hospital Authority to manage, administer, and control the Kern Medical Center and operate additional programs, clinics and other facilities affiliated with the medical center.	
AB 2731	Perea D	County of Fresno: maintenance of effort: streets and roads allocations.	Signed	This bill suspends the transportation maintenance of effort requirement for Fresno County if the funds are used for medical care for indigent county residents.	Support
SB 883	Hancock D	West Contra Costa Healthcare District.	Signed	This bill appropriates \$3 million from the Major Risk Medical Insurance Fund to the West Contra Costa Healthcare District for support of the Doctors Medical Center in Contra Costa County.	Support
SB 1094	Lara D	Nonprofit health facilities: sale of assets: Attorney General approval.	Vetoed - Should wait until after the AG has revised regulations pertaining to non-profit hospital sales	This bill would provide an additional 30 days for the Attorney General (AG) to review proposed transactions involving non-profit health facilities and allows the AG to enforce the conditions of the approved agreement.	

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