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Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of March 9, 2016

2016 is the second year of a two-year legislative session so there are both two-year bills from 2015 if they got through their house of origin and new bills that had to be introduced by February 2016. There are still some spot bills which have not yet been amended with substantive content. We have not included special session bills below. Both the MCO tax swap bill - (SBx2 2 (Hernandez) - and a bill increasing rates for services for people with disabilities - ABx2 1 (Thurmond) have been signed into law and a number of bills related to tobacco products were passed by the Assembly last week and are pending in the Senate.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1568	Bonta D	Medi-Cal: demonstration project.	Health Committee	Spot bill re: section 1115 Medicaid waiver.	
AB 1655	Dodd D	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: personal needs allowance.	Health Committee	Under Medi-Cal current law prohibits medically needy persons or medically needy family persons from receiving health care during any month in which their share of cost has not been met. This bill would increase the personal needs allowance amount from \$35 to \$80 per month while a person is a patient as described above, and instead would require DHCS to annually increase this amount based on the California Consumer Price Index.	
AB 1696	Holden D	Medi-Cal: tobacco cessation services.	Health Committee	This bill would provide that tobacco cessation services are covered benefits under Medi-Cal and would require those services to include 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.	Human Services Committee	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 already taken by the social worker or probation officer upon case closure to ensure that the youth remains on Medi-Cal.	Support
AB 2394	Garcia, Eduardo D	Medi-Cal: nonmedical transportation.	Health Committee	This bill would add to the schedule of covered Medi-Cal benefits nonmedical transportation, as defined, subject to utilization controls and permissible time and distance standards.	Sponsor
AB 2670	Hernández, Roger D	Medi-Cal: managed care health plans: Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Health Plan surveys.	Rules Committee	This bill would require DHCS to conduct the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey (CAHPS), a patient experience survey, in all Medi-Cal threshold languages on annually	Support
AB 2821	Chiu D	Medi-Cal: cooperative arrangements.	Rules Committee	This bill would create the Medi-Cal Housing Program, providing grants between Homeless Continuums of Care (CoC) and managed health care plans to collaborate and find housing for homeless beneficiaries and would also create a state homeless data warehouse.	Support

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SB 33	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: estate recovery.	2 Year Bill	This bill would limit Medi-Cal estate recovery to long term care costs, delete the requirement that the department make a claim upon the death of the surviving spouse, and require DHCS to provide a current or former beneficiary upon request, for a charge of \$5, the total recoverable amount under these provisions.	Sponsor
SB 260	Monning D	Medi-Cal: county organized health systems: pilot programs.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require County Organized Health System Medi-Cal plans to be licensed with the Department of Managed Health Care under the Knox-Keene Act.	Sponsor
SB 815	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: demonstration project.	Health Committee	Spot bill on Medicaid 1115 waiver.	
SB 997	Lara D	Health care coverage: immigration status.	Health Committee	This bill is geared toward helping transition children in the current Kaiser Children's Health Program into Health4AllKids.	
SB 1339	Monning D	Public social services: intercounty transfers.	Human Services Committee	This bill would streamline intercounty transfer procedures for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh.	Sponsor

Health Care Reform

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1102	Santiago D	Health care coverage: Medi-Cal Access Program: disclosures.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require that women who apply for the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP - formerly AIM) who are denied coverage be told about the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program and Covered California.	Support
AB 1839	Patterson R	California Health Benefit Exchange: enrollment options.	Health Committee	This bill would require CalHEERS to inform families where the parent is eligible for Covered California subsidies and the children are eligible for Medi-Cal of the option of purchasing unsubsidized coverage for the child or children.	Support If Amended
AB 2077	Burke D	Health Care Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Act.	Rules Committee	This bill would require procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured.	Sponsor
SB 10	Lara D	Health care coverage: immigration status.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require California to apply for a waiver to allow undocumented individuals to buy unsubsidized coverage through Covered California and would extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal to adults who would qualify but for their immigration status if sufficient funding is available.	Support
SB 1159	Hernandez D	Health Care: Office of Patient Advocate.	Health Committee	This bill would add to the report issued by the Office of Patient Advocate about publicly operated consumer assistance centers information regarding call centers' record of answering calls within 30 seconds, the number of abandoned calls, and the number of busy messages sent to consumers.	
SB 1364	Monning D	Health care coverage: State Innovation Waiver.	Rules Committee	Spot bill on 1332 waiver.	

Health Insurance Market

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2209	Bonilla D	Health care coverage: clinical care pathways.	Health Committee	This bill would prohibit a health plan or insurer from implementing clinical care pathways, as defined, for use by providers in order to manage an enrollee's or insured's care.	

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SB 503	Hernandez D	Cal-COBRA: disclosures.	2 Year Bill	Current law requires a group plan that is subject to Cal-COBRA to send a notice to covered employees. This bill would delete the requirement that the notice advise about medical underwriting and required language about Medi-Cal and Covered California.	Support
SB 908	Hernandez D	Health care coverage: premium rate change: notice: other health coverage.	Health Committee	This bill would require that if the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance determines that a group rate is unreasonable or not justified, the contract holder or policyholder would be notified by the health plan or insurer in writing of the determination, and the contract holder or policyholder would be given 60 days to obtain health coverage from the existing coverage provider or another provider. During the 60-day period the contract holder or policyholder would continue to be covered at the prior rate.	Support
SB 923	Hernandez D	Health care coverage: cost sharing changes.	Health Committee	This bill would prohibit, health plans and insurers from changing any cost sharing requirements during the plan year or policy year, except when required by a change in law.	Support
SB 932	Hernandez D	Health care mergers and acquisitions.	Rules Committee	Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require a review of health care mergers and acquisitions for impacts on health care costs, access, and quality of care.	
SB 1034	Mitchell D	Health care coverage: autism.	Health Committee	Would modify requirements to be a qualified autism service professional to include providing behavioral health treatment, such as clinical management and case supervision. The bill would require that a treatment plan be reviewed no more than once every 6 months, unless a shorter period is recommended by the qualified autism service provider.	
SB 1135	Monning D	Health care coverage: notice of timely access to care.	Health Committee	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 and would require insurers to include either the toll-free consumer call center numbers of DMHC and CDI on consumers' insurance cards.	Support
Language Access					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 635	Atkins D	Medical interpretation services.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require DHCS to seek federal funding for a program for certified language interpretation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient in both fee-for-service and managed care.	Support
AB 1114	Bonilla D	Health care: eligibility and enrollment.	2 Year Bill	This bill would clarify that Medi-Cal and Covered California renewal forms and notices must be translated into the thirteen Medi-Cal threshold languages	Sponsor
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 168	Maienschein R	Mental health: community-based services.	Health Committee	Would require DHCS to develop and submit a proposal to federal HHS to participate in the time-limited demonstration program to receive enhanced federal matching funds for mental health services provided by certified community behavioral health clinics to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.	Support

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AB 1644	Bonta D	School-based early mental health intervention and prevention services.	Education Committee	This bill would provide TA and guidance to currently existing school-based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services (EMHI) and provides resources for LEAs to establish new EMHI programs, with priority to those in communities experiencing high levels of childhood adversity.	Support
AB 2279	Cooley D	Mental Health Services Act: county-by-county spending reports.	Health Committee	This bill would require DHCS based on the Annual Mental Health Services Act Revenue and Expenditure Report, to compile information that includes the total amount of MHSA revenue, a county-by-county comparison of fund expenditure plans and annual updates, and a county-by-county comparison of the purposes for which MHSA funds were expended and to send that information to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. The bill would require the commission to make the information available to the public on the commission's Web site.	
SB 614	Leno D	Medi-Cal: mental health services: peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification.	2 Year Bill	This bill would establish a Peer and Family Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by DHCS.	Support
SB 884	Beall D	Pupil services: mental health services.	Rules Committee	Author sponsored spot bill that may require Individualized Education Plan (IEP) appeal process to be independent of school.	Support
SB 1113	Beall D	Pupil health: mental health services: funding.	Rules Committee	Spot bill that would encourage and incentivize partnerships to provide universal mental health support, assessments, and services.	
SB 1291	Beall D	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health: children and youth.	Health Committee	This bill would require county mental health plans to create a subsection for foster youth and include an annual foster care mental health plan.	
SB 1466	Mitchell D	Mental health benefits: children: medical necessity.	Rules Committee	Would require DHCS and DSS, to convene a stakeholder workgroup to revise and update the existing definition of "medically necessary" and "medical necessity" to be applied specifically with respect to children, youth, and their families for purposes of access to mental health services provided under EPSDT.	
Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2400	Nazarian D	Prescription drug coverage: prior authorization and external review.	Health Committee	This bill would require health plans and insurers to also comply with an external exception request process for formulary drugs that require prior authorization by the plan or health insurer.	
AB 2436	Hernández, Roger D	Health care coverage: disclosures: drug pricing.	Health Committee	This bill would require a health plan or insurer that provides coverage for prescription drug benefits to notify the enrollee or insured of specified information related to the cost of a prescription drug at the time that the drug is purchased or delivered.	Support

Benefits

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1795	Atkins D	Health care programs: cancer.	Health Committee	This bill would provide that treatment services by DHCS for low-income women be for the duration of the period of treatment for an individual made eligible for treatment due to a diagnosis of breast cancer or cervical cancer, or who is diagnosed with a reoccurrence of breast cancer or cervical cancer, as long as the individual continues to meet all other eligibility requirements instead of 18 months for breast cancer and 24 months for cervical cancer.	Support
AB 1823	Bonilla D	California Cancer Clinical Trials Program.	Health Committee	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.	Support
AB 2004	Bloom D	Hearing aids: minors.	Health Committee	This bill would require health plans and insurers to include coverage for hearing aids for an enrollee or insured under 18 years of age.	
AB 2084	Wood D	Medi-Cal: comprehensive medication management.	Health Committee	This bill would provide that comprehensive medication management (CMM) services, including the development and implementation of a written treatment plan designed to resolve documented medication therapy problems, are a covered Medi-Cal benefit.	
AB 2207	Wood D	Medi-Cal: dental program.	Health Committee	Spot bill on Denti-Cal following Hoover Commission recommendation.	
AB 2345	Ridley-Thomas D	Health care: patient access.	Rules Committee	Spot bill re: access to care	
SB 999	Pavley D	Health insurance: contraceptives: annual supply.	B&P Committee	This bill would require health plans and insurers to cover a 12-month supply of FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives.	
SB 1361	Nielsen R	Medi-Cal: eyeglasses.	Health Committee	This bill would restore coverage of one pair of eyeglasses provided every 2 years to adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are unable to meet or exceed the driver's license vision standards established by the DMV.	Support

Medical Debt

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 533	Bonta D	Health care coverage: out-of-network coverage.	2-Year Bill	This bill would require a health contract or insurer to provide that if an enrollee obtains care from a participating facility at which the enrollee receives covered services provided by a nonparticipating provider, the enrollee be required to pay the nonparticipating provider only the same cost sharing required if the services had been provided by a participating provider.	Support
SB 1252	Stone R	Health care costs: patient notification.	Health Committee	This bill would require, when a medical procedure is scheduled to be performed, the hospital, surgical clinic, and physician to notify the patient, in writing, of the net costs to the patient for the procedure being done. For complex medical procedures or screenings involving multiple physicians, the hospital, surgical clinic, and physician, as applicable, would be required to disclose, in writing, if any of the physicians are not contracted with the patient's health plan or insurer and the costs for which the patient would be responsible as a result.	Support If Amended

Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1726	Bonta D	Data collection.	Higher Education Committee	This bill would require DPH, DHCS, and the California public college systems to use additional separate collection categories and other tabulations for specified Asian groups and Pacific Islander groups.	Support
SB 1139	Lara D	Health professionals: undocumented immigrants: scholarships, loans, and loan repayment.	Health Committee	Would prohibit specified programs within the Health Professions Education Foundation from denying an application based on the citizenship status or immigration status of the applicant.	Support

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