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Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of May 18, 2016

Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians. Bills had to pass out of policy committee by April if they were fiscal bills and by May 6 if they were nonfiscal. Bills that did not pass out of policy committee are not included in this report. 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 on May 27, 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 3.

| Medi-Cal | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 1568 | Bonta D | Medi-Cal: demonstration project. | Assembly Appropriations | The bill would implement California's section 1115 Medicaid waiver. | Support with Amends |
| AB 1655 | Dodd D | Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: personal needs allowance | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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. | |
| AB 1696 | Holden D | Medi-Cal: tobacco cessation services. | Assembly Appropriations | This bill would provide that tobacco cessation services are covered under Medi-Cal including 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. | Senate Human Services | 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 taken a to ensure that the youth remains on Medi-Cal. | Support |
| AB 2394 | Garcia, Eduardo D | Medi-Cal: nonmedical transportation. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would clarify that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit. | Sponsor |
| AB 2670 | Hernández, Roger D | Medi-Cal: managed care health plans: Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Health Plan surveys. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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 an annual basis. | Support |
| AB 2821 | Chiu D | Medi-Cal Housing Program. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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 | 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. | Sponsor |
| SB 260 | Monning D | Medi-Cal: county organized health systems: pilot programs. | 2 Year | 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. | Senate Appropriations | The bill would implement California's section 1115 Medicaid waiver. | Support with Amends |
| SB 997 | Lara D | Health care coverage: immigration status. | Senate Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE | This bill would transition children in the Kaiser Children's Health Program into Kaiser Medi-Cal once the children are in full-scope Medi-Cal with notice about their ability to change plans. | Support |
| SB 1335 | Mitchell D | Med-Cal benefits: federally qualified health centers and rural health centers: Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would authorize the counties and the mental health plans to contract with federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs) for Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services. | |
| SB 1339 | Monning D | Public social services: intercounty transfers. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would streamline intercounty transfer procedures for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh. | Sponsor |

Health

| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|----------------|-------------------|---|--|--|----------------------|
| SB 1034 | Mitchell D | Health care coverage: autism. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would modify requirements to be a qualified autism service professional to include providing behavioral health treatment, such as clinical management and case supervision, and 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 1174 | McGuire D | Medi-Cal: children: prescribing patterns: psychotropic medications. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require DHCS and DSS to conduct an analysis of data regarding Medi-Cal prescribers and their prescribing patterns for all children enrolled in and receiving services pursuant to the Medi-Cal program broken down by specified population categories, including children in foster care. | Support |

Health Care Reform

| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| AB 2077 | Burke D | Health Care Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Act. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured. | Sponsor |
| AB 2308 | Hernández, Roger D | Health care coverage: enrollment assistance. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would provide uninsured students of the CSU and community colleges with information about health care coverage options and enrollment assistance. | Support If Amended |

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|----------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------|
| SB 10 | Lara D | Health care coverage: immigration status. | Assembly Floor | This bill would require California to apply for a waiver to allow undocumented individuals to buy unsubsidized coverage through Covered California. | Support |
| SB 1010 | Hernandez D | Health care: prescription drug costs. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require health plans and insurers regulated by DMHC and CDI to report cost information regarding covered prescription drugs, including the 25 most frequently prescribed drugs, the 25 most costly drugs, and the average wholesale price for each drug, to be compiled in a consumer-friendly report on DMHC and CDI websites. This bill would require a manufacturer of a branded prescription drug to notify state purchasers, health plans, health insurers, and the Legislature of the wholesale acquisition cost of certain high cost drugs. | |

Health Insurance Market

| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|----------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| AB 2209 | Bonilla D | Health care coverage: clinical pathways. | Assembly Appropriations | 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. | |
| SB 923 | Hernandez D | Health care coverage: cost sharing changes. | Assembly Health | 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, acquisitions, and collaborations. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require any person that intends to merge with, consolidate, acquire, or purchase any health care service plan or risk-bearing organization to secure the prior approval from the Director of DMHC, among other requirements. | Support |
| SB 1135 | Monning D | Health care coverage: notice of timely access to care. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | 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 the toll-free consumer call center numbers of DMHC, CDI, or the Office of the Ombudsman on the back of consumers' insurance cards. | Support |

Language Access

| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|----------------|------------------|--|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| AB 635 | Atkins D | Medical interpretation services. | 2 Year | 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 | 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 |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|

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|----------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| AB 168 | Maienschein R | Mental health: community-based services. | Senate Health | This bill would require DHCS to submit a proposal to the federal government that would redirect a portion of mental health funds currently used to match federal funds to provide increased housing opportunities for individuals with severe mental illnesses. | Support |
| AB 1644 | Bonta D | School-based early mental health intervention and prevention services. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require that information about statewide and county-by-county funding for mental health programs be made available to the public. | |
| SB 614 | Leno D | Medi-Cal: mental health services: peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification. | 2 Year | This bill would establish a Peer and Family Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by DHCS. | Support |
| SB 884 | Beall D | Special education: procedural safeguards and records. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would institute standards for accountability, transparency, and monitoring of services and spending of students in special education with mental health service needs. | Support |
| SB 1113 | Beall D | Pupil health: mental health. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would authorize local educational agencies (LEAs) to enter into partnerships with county mental health plans for the provision of EPSDT mental health services and to expand the allowable uses of specified mental health funds, and requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to expand its reporting system for mental health services to include academic performance and other measures. | |
| SB 1291 | Beall D | Medi-Cal: specialty mental health: children and youth. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | 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 | Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening. | Senate Appropriations | This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen. | Support |

Prescription Drugs

| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| AB 2400 | Nazarian D | Prescription drug coverage: prior authorization and external review. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would shorten health plans' and insurers' internal grievance timeline for formulary prescription drug requests, aligning the formulary prescription drug request timeframes with the nonformulary prescription drug request timeframes. | Support |
| AB 2436 | Hernández, Roger D | Health care coverage: disclosures: drug pricing. | Assembly Appropriations | This bill would require health plans and insurers to provide consumers with information about the cost of their prescription drugs, specifically the cost to the patient through their co-pay, co-insurance or other cost-sharing and the publicly available, non proprietary wholesale acquisition cost of a prescription drug. . | Support |

Benefits

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| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| AB 1795 | Atkins D | Health care programs: cancer. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would provide that treatment services under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP) be for the duration of the period of treatment for an individual with breast cancer or cervical cancer, instead of 18 months for breast cancer and 24 months for cervical cancer. The bill would also expand eligibility for breast cancer screening under the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program to symptomatic women under age 40. | Support |
| AB 2004 | Bloom D | Hearing aids: minors. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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. | |
| SB 999 | Pavley D | Health insurance: contraceptives: annual supply. | Senate Third Reading | 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. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | 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 and whose uncorrected visual acuity is equal to or poorer than 20/40. | Support |
| Medical Debt | | | | | |
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 533 | Bonta D | Health care coverage: out-of-network coverage. | Assembly Unfinished Business | 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 1159 | Hernandez D | California Health Care Cost and Quality Database. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | 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. | Support with Amends |
| Access to Care | | | | | |
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 1823 | Bonilla D | California Cancer Clinical Trials Program. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | 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 |

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| AB 2345 | Ridley-Thomas D | Commission on Health Care Cost Review. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would create the Commission on Health Care Cost Review to study and analyze public policies affecting health care costs and access to health care coverage and to report its findings to the Legislature every two years. The commission would be operable contingent upon DMHC's finding that sufficient voluntary contributions exist or will exist to fund the commission. | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| SB 1139 | Lara D | Health professionals: medical residency programs: undocumented immigrants: scholarships, loans, and loan repayment. | Senate Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would prohibit the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development from denying an application for California's scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for health professionals based on the citizenship status or immigration status of the applicant. | Support |
| Dental | | | | | |
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 1051 | Maienschein R | Denti-Cal program. | Senate Health | This bill would appropriate \$200 million from the General Fund to Denti-Cal program for increases in reimbursement rates for providers, funding for preventative care and case management services, and increased beneficiary utilization. | Support with Amends |
| AB 2207 | Wood D | Medi-Cal: dental program. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would address Hoover Commission recommendation on Denti-Cal, including maintaining an accurate Denti-Cal network by establishing procedures to disenroll non-active providers, requiring Medi-Cal managed care plans to cover and ensure dental screenings for all beneficiaries as a part of the initial health assessment, and increasing the department's oversight over access and utilization of Denti-Cal services. | Support with Amends |
| Reproductive Rights | | | | | |
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 1954 | Burke D | Health care coverage: reproductive health care services. | Assembly Third Reading | This bill would allow women enrolled in commercial health plans to go out of network if they lack timely access to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care from an appropriate in-network provider and would prohibit health insurance plans from requiring a referral prior to a woman accessing reproductive services. | |
| SB 960 | Hernandez D | Medi-Cal: telehealth: reproductive health care. | Senate Appropriations | This bill would enable reimbursement of reproductive health services provided to Medi-Cal patients delivered through telephone and email consultation, and for online provision of healthcare, such as through mobile apps or web browsers. | |
| Other | | | | | |
| Measure | Author | Topic | Location | Summary | WCLP Position |
| AB 1726 | Bonta D | Data collection. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would require the Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services, and the California public college systems to use additional separate collection categories and other tabulations for specified Asian groups and Pacific Islander groups. | Support |

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|---------|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| AB 2424 | Gomez D | Community-based Health Improvement and Innovation Fund. | Assembly Appropriations Suspense File | This bill would create a Community-based Health Improvement and Innovation Fund to address health inequity and disparities in the rates and outcomes of priority chronic health conditions. | |
| SB 1477 | Committee on Health | Health. | Assembly Health | This bill would require the California Health Benefit Exchange to also be known as Covered California, replaces references from the now-repealed Healthy Families Program to the Medi-Cal program, and from the repealed AIM-Linked Infants Program to the Medi-Cal Access Program, and other technical changes. | |

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