



Sacramento Office

Elizabeth A. Landsberg
 Director of Policy Advocacy
 Jessica Bartholow
 Policy Advocate
 Michael E. Herald
 Policy Advocate
 Jith Meganathan
 Policy Advocate
 Anya Lawler
 Policy Advocate
 Linda T. Nguy
 Policy Advocate

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

Below is a list of bills impact access to health care for low-income Californians. All bills had to pass off the floor of the house in which they were introduced by June 3rd. 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 Appropriations, it was held in the Appropriations suspense file and is not moving forward. Bills must pass their second-house policy committee(s) by July 1st.

Medi-Cal					
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
AB 1568	Bonta D	Medi-Cal: demonstration project.	Senate Appropriations	The bill would implement 2 pieces of California's section 1115 Medicaid waiver: the Whole Person Care Pilot and the Dental Transformation Initiative.	Support If Amended
AB 1696	Holden D	Medi-Cal: tobacco cessation services.	Senate Health	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 2207	Wood D	Medi-Cal: dental program.	Senate Health	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.	
AB 2394	Garcia, Eduardo D	Medi-Cal: nonmedical transportation.	Senate Health	This bill would clarify that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit.	Sponsor

AB 2821	Chiu D	Medi-Cal Housing Program.	Senate Health	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
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 586	Hernandez D	Children's services.	Assembly Health	This bill would extend the carve-out of the California Children's Services program (CCS) from Medi-Cal managed care contract beyond the current sunset of January 1, 2016 and create a new model for CCS.	
SB 815	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: demonstration project.	Assembly Appropriations	The bill would implement 3 pieces of California's section 1115 Medicaid waiver: the Global Payment Program, PRIME (funding for public hospitals) and an assessment of access in Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Support If Amended
SB 997	Lara D	Health care coverage: immigration status.	Assembly Desk	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.	Assembly Desk	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.	Assembly Human Services	This bill would streamline intercounty transfer procedures for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh.	Sponsor
Health Care Reform					
AB 2077	Burke D	Health Care Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Act.	Senate Health	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: information to students.	Senate Education	This bill would provide uninsured students of the CSU and community colleges with information about health care coverage options.	Support
SB 10	Lara D	Health care coverage: immigration status.	Enrolled	This bill would require California to apply for a waiver to allow undocumented individuals to buy unsubsidized coverage through Covered California.	Support
SB 1418	Lara D	Medi-Cal: immigration status.	Senate Health	This bill would extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to adults otherwise eligible but for their immigration status if DHCS determines that sufficient funding is available.	Support

Health Insurance Market					
AB 533	Bonta D	Health care coverage: out-of-network coverage.	Unfinished Business	This bill would protect consumers from surprise medical bills by prohibiting an enrollee from being charged more than their in-network cost-sharing when they obtain care from a in-network facility at which the enrollee receives covered services provided by a out-of-network provider.	Support
AB 1954	Burke D	Health care coverage: reproductive health care services.	Senate Health	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.	
AB 2424	Gomez D	Community-based Health Improvement and Innovation Fund.	Senate Health	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 908	Hernandez D	Health care coverage: premium rate change: notice: other health coverage.	Assembly Desk	This bill would require health plans and health insurers to notify contract holders in the individual and small group market if premium rates have been determined unreasonable or unjustified and gives the contract holders the option to obtain health coverage from another provider within 60 days.	Support
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 1135	Monning D	Health care coverage: notice of timely access to care.	Assembly Desk	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 in its evidence of coverage and provider directory.	Support
SB 1159	Hernandez D	California Health Care Cost and Quality Database.	Assembly Health	This bill would require health plans and other health care entities to provide specified cost and quality data information to the Secretary of California Health and Human Services to develop a health care cost and quality data base.	Support
Language Access					
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					
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.	Senate Health	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.	Senate Health	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: mental health services.	Assembly Desk	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.	Assembly Education	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.	Assembly Health	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.	Assembly Health	This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen.	Support
Prescription Drugs					
AB 2436	Hernández, Roger D	Health care coverage: disclosures: drug pricing.	Unfinished Business	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
SB 1010	Hernandez D	Health care: prescription drug costs.	Assembly Desk	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 and the 25 most costly drugs, to be compiled in an annual report. Prescription drug manufacturers would also be required to provide notification of certain high cost drugs and drugs with high cost increases.	
SB 1174	McGuire D	Medi-Cal: children: prescribing patterns: psychotropic medications.	Assembly Desk	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

Benefits					
AB 1795	Atkins D	Health care programs: cancer.	Senate Health	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.	Support
AB 2004	Bloom D	Hearing aids: minors.	Senate Health	This bill would require health plans and insurers to include coverage for hearing aids for an enrollee or insured under 18 years of age.	
SB 999	Pavley D	Health insurance: contraceptives: annual supply.	Assembly Health	This bill would require health plans and insurers to cover a 12-month supply of FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives.	
SB 1034	Mitchell D	Health care coverage: autism.	Assembly Health	This bill would eliminate the sunset date on the health insurance mandate to cover behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism, and makes other revisions to the law such as prohibiting denials for medically necessary behavioral health treatment based on the setting, location or time of the treatment.	
Access to Care					
AB 1823	Bonilla D	California Cancer Clinical Trials Program.	Senate Health	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
SB 1139	Lara D	Health professionals: medical residency programs: undocumented immigrants: scholarships, loans, and loan repayment.	Assembly Health	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
Other					
AB 1726	Bonta D	Data collection.	Senate Education	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
SB 1477	Committee on Health	Health.	Assembly Health	This bill would require the California Health Benefit Exchange to also be known as Covered California, replace references from the now-repealed Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal, and from the repealed AIM-Linked Infants Program to the Medi-Cal Access Program, and other technical changes.	

For more information contact:

Elizabeth Landsberg 916.282.5118
Linda Nguy 916.282.5117

elandsberg@wclp.org
lnguy@wclp.org