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Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of August 12, 2016

The deadline for bills to pass out of their second house policy committee and the start of summer recess was July 1. The Legislature reconvened on August 1, as this month will be a flurry of activity. The Legislature had two weeks, or until August 12, to pass any bill with a cost out of second house fiscal committee. From then, the Legislature will focus on hearing bills on the floor before recessing again on August 31. Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1051	Maienschein R	Denti-Cal program: reimbursement rates.	HELD IN SENATE APPR.	This bill would require DHCS to increase Denti-Cal provider reimbursement rates for the 15 most common prevention, treatment, and oral evaluation services to the regional average commercial rates.	Support
AB 1299	Ridley-Thomas D	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster children.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would seek to ensure foster kids placed out of county have access to specialty mental health services by giving the county probation agency or child welfare services agency who is responsible for the care and placement of the child for determining whether presumptive transfer is appropriate.	
AB 1696	Holden D	Medi-Cal: tobacco cessation services.	SENATE FLOOR	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 FLOOR	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 FLOOR	This bill would require DHCS to expedite the Denti-Cal provider enrollment process, require Medi-Cal managed care plans to cover and ensure dental screenings for all beneficiaries as a part of the initial health assessment, increase the department's oversight over access and utilization of Denti-Cal services and codify the data reporting and evaluation requirements for the Dental Transformation Initiative.	Support
AB 2394	Garcia, Eduardo D	Medi-Cal: nonmedical transportation.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would clarify that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit beginning July 2017.	Sponsor

AB 2821	Chiu D	Medi-Cal Housing Program.	SENATE FLOOR	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 586	Hernandez D	Children's services.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would establish the Whole Child Model program into the California Children's Services (CCS) program in a limited number of County Organized Health System (COHS) counties and extend the carve-out for all other counties to 2022.	
SB 815	Hernandez D	Medi-Cal: demonstration project.	CHAPTERED	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 1335	Mitchell D	Medi-Cal benefits: federally qualified health centers and rural health centers: Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	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 if contracted to do so on or prior to January 1, 2017.	
SB 1339	Monning D	Public social services: intercounty transfers.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	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 FLOOR	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 FLOOR	This bill would provide uninsured students of the CSU and community colleges with information about health care coverage options.	Support
SB 1418	Lara D	Medi-Cal: immigration status.	INACTIVE	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
SB 1477	Committee on Health	Health.	SENATE DESK	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.	
Health Insurance Market					
AB 72	Bonta D	Health care coverage: out-of-network coverage.	SENATE FLOOR	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 covered services from a in-network facility by an out-of-network provider.	Support
AB 1216	Bonta D	Limitations on cost sharing: family coverage.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would prohibit a large group market health plan contract or policy for family coverage that is a high deductible health plan and that includes a deductible for individual coverage from subjecting an individual to a deductible that is greater than the deductible for individual coverage under the plan contract or policy if the deductible for individual coverage is greater than or equal to the amount set forth in a specified provision of federal law as described.	

AB 1954	Burke D	Health care coverage: reproductive health care services.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would prohibit health insurance plans from requiring a referral prior to a woman accessing reproductive and sexual health care services.	
AB 2424	Gomez D	Community-based Health Improvement and Innovation Fund.	HELD IN SENATE APPR.	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 FLOOR	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.	ENROLLMENT	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 FLOOR	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 FLOOR	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.	SENATE FLOOR	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.	
Mental Health					
AB 168	Maienschein R	Mental health: community-based services.	SENATE FLOOR	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.	Watch
AB 741	Williams D	Mental health: community care facilities.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would allow a short-term residential treatment center to be operated as a children's crisis residential center.	
AB 1644	Bonta D	School-based early mental health intervention and prevention services.	HELD IN SENATE APPR.	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 FLOOR	This bill would require that information about statewide and county-by-county funding for mental health programs be made available to the public.	
SB 884	Beall D	Special education: mental health services.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would require the K-12 audit guide to include an audit procedure for educationally related mental health service expenditures, and requires the California Department of Education to report outcomes for students who receive educationally related mental health services.	Support

SB 1113	Beall D	Pupil health: mental health.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	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.	
SB 1291	Beall D	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health: children and youth.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would require an independent reviewer to evaluate the mental health services for foster youth. Any recommendations it makes to the county and its board of supervisors would be made public by the state.	
SB 1466	Mitchell D	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.	SENATE FLOOR	This bill would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen.	Support
Prescription Drugs					
SB 1010	Hernandez D	Health care: prescription drug costs.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would require manufacturers notify the state, health insurers and others if they raise the wholesale price of a drug by more than 25% in a 12-month period, but keep pricing information confidential until it is revealed by manufacturers and sunset the disclosure in 2022.	
SB 1174	McGuire D	Medi-Cal: children: prescribing patterns: psychotropic medications.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would require DHCS and DSS to provide the Medical Board with data regarding Medi-Cal physicians and their prescribing patterns for foster care children and require the Board to report annually to the Legislature, DHCS, and DSS the results of the analysis of the data.	Support
Benefits					
AB 1795	Atkins D	Health care programs: cancer.	SENATE FLOOR	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.	HELD IN SENATE APPR.	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 care coverage: contraceptives: annual supply.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	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.	HELD IN ASSEMBLY APPR.	This bill would broaden an existing mandate that requires health plans to cover medically necessary behavioral health treatment services, including applied behavioral analysis (ABA) for pervasive developmental disorder or autism and would extend the sunset to January 2022.	
Access to Care					
AB 1823	Bonilla D	California Cancer Clinical Trials Program.	SENATE FLOOR	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.	

SB 1139	Lara D	Health professionals: medical school programs: healing arts residency training programs: undocumented immigrants: nonimmigrant aliens: scholarships, loans, and loan repayment.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	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 1628	Committee on Budget	No Place Like Home Program: financing.	SENATE FLOOR	Budget cleanup bill related to "No Place Like Home" program that would authorize up to \$2 billion in bond issuance to construct permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with mental illness.	
AB 1726	Bonta D	Data collection.	SENATE FLOOR	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 858	Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	No Place Like Home Program: financing.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	Budget cleanup bill related to "No Place Like Home" program that would authorize up to \$2 billion in bond issuance to construct permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with mental illness.	
SB 1098	Cannella R	Medi-Cal: dental services: advisory group.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR	This bill would creates an Advisory Committee on Denti-Cal until January 1, 2022.	

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