

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 17, 2017

The last day for each house to pass bills was September 15, which was the last day of session before the Legislature recessed. October 15 was the last day the Governor had to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 15 and in the Governor's possession on or after September 15. Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians. Bills noted as "chaptered" were signed by the Governor. Chaptered bills take effect January 1, 2018, except for bills with an urgency clause which take effect immediately upon enactment or bills otherwise noted. The Governor acted on 977 bills, signing 859 and vetoing 118 bills, for a veto rate of 12 %.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 74	Chiu	Housing.	Chaptered	This bill would create the Housing for a Healthy California Program to provide rental assistance to individuals who are homeless and receive services from the Whole Person Care pilot program, Health Homes, or another locally controlled funding source.	Support
AB 391	Chiu	Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services.	Vetoed	This bill would require asthma preventive services to be a covered Medi-Cal benefit, establish requirements for qualified asthma preventive service providers, and establish requirements for an entity or supervising licensed provider who employs or contracts with a qualified asthma preventive services provider.	Support
AB 447	Gray	Medi-Cal: covered benefits: continuous glucose monitors.	Vetoed	This bill would add continuous glucose monitors to the schedule of Medi-Cal benefits for the treatment of diabetes mellitus type 1 and diabetes mellitus type 2 when medically necessary, subject to utilization controls.	Support
SB 218	Dodd	The Qualified ABLE Program: tax-advantaged savings accounts.	Chaptered	This bill would authorize, to the extent permitted under federal law, the transfer of all amounts in the designated beneficiary's ABLE account to an ABLE account for another individual and prohibit the state from seeking recovery of any amount remaining in the designated beneficiary's ABLE account.	Support
SB 220	Pan	Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel.	Chaptered	This bill would revise the qualification criteria for the parent members of the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel with 3 members who are either Medi-Cal enrollees who have received Medi-Cal benefits or services in relation to a pregnancy, or who are a parent, foster parent, relative caregiver, or legal guardian of a Medi-Cal child.	
SB 323	Mitchell	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health centers: Drug Medi-Cal and specialty mental health services.	Chaptered	This bill would permit a FQHC or rural health clinic to be reimbursed directly from a county or the DHCS for providing Drug Medi-Cal or specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.	

SB 643	Pan	The Holden-Moscone-Garamendi Genetically Handicapped Persons Program: Duchenne muscular dystrophy.	Vetoed	This bill would add Duchenne muscular dystrophy to the list of medical conditions eligible for Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.	Support
SB 743	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: family planning providers.	Chaptered	Codifies into state law the provision of federal law that allows Medi-Cal managed care enrollees to see any provider accepting Medicaid for family planning services.	Support
Consumer Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 219	Wiener	Long-term care facilities: rights of residents.	Chaptered	Prohibits long-term care facilities from discriminating on the basis of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV status, by refusing to use a resident's preferred name or pronoun, denying admission to a long-term care facility, transferring or refusing to transfer a resident within a facility or to another facility, or involuntarily discharging a resident from a facility.	Support
SB 223	Atkins	Health care language assistance services.	Chaptered	Codifies into state law section 1557 provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Adds notice of the availability of interpreter services in 15 languages spoken by limited-English proficient Californians as identified by the Census Bureau to Medi-Cal, health insurance, and health plan enrollees.	Support
SB 239	Wiener	Infectious and communicable diseases: HIV and AIDS: criminal penalties.	Chaptered	Repeals several HIV-specific criminal laws to align them with current laws applicable to other serious communicable diseases.	Support
SB 241	Monning	Medical records: access.	Chaptered	This bill would allow patients to receive medical records electronically, if maintained electronically.	Support
SB 575	Leyva	Patient access to health records.	Chaptered	This bill would provide low-income individuals with free access to their medical records when applying for certain public benefit programs.	Sponsor
Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 156	Wood	Individual market: enrollment periods.	Chaptered	Changes the Covered California and outside individual market open enrollment period from Nov 1-Jan 31 to an annual enrollment period of Oct 15-Jan 15 starting in fall of 2018 to comply with CMS market stabilization regulations.	Support
SB 133	Hernandez	Health care coverage: continuity of care.	Chaptered	Adds continuity of care protections to consumers whose individual plan carrier leaves the market that mirror those protections offered to employees whose employer switches carriers.	

Managed Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 205	Wood	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Chaptered	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill that would codify time and distance standards for Medi-Cal managed care enrollees to obtain primary, core specialty, mental health, dental, and pharmacy services; codify appointment wait time standards; require DSS to develop regulations related to state fair hearing on grievance and appeal; and establish EQRO reporting requirements.	Support
SB 171	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Chaptered	Medicaid managed care rule implementation bill that provisions related to public hospital financing, the medical loss ratio, and public reporting related to mental health and substance use disorder parity.	Support
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 254	Thurmond	Local Educational Agency Behavioral Health Integration Pilot Program.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require DHCS to establish the Local Educational Agency Behavioral Health Integration Pilot Program to improve the behavioral health outcomes of students by improving delivery of direct behavioral health services using MHSA funds.	
AB 340	Arambula	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.	Chaptered	This bill would require DHCS convene an advisory working group to update, amend or develop tools and protocols for the screening of children with trauma, and moves the convening date earlier from September 15, 2018 to May 1, 2018.	Support
AB 470	Arambula	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: performance outcome reports.	Chaptered	This bill would require DHCS to build on existing data systems to create performance outcomes reports for mental health services delivered to Medi-Cal enrollees.	Support
AB 501	Ridley-Thomas	Mental health: community care facilities.	Chaptered	This bill would authorize a short-term residential therapeutic program to be operated as a children's crisis residential program, to be regulated by DSS, and would require DHCS to establish interim Medi-Cal rates for children's crisis residential services.	
AB 727	Nazarian	Mental Health Services Act: housing assistance.	Chaptered	This bill would clarify that counties may spend MHSA moneys on housing assistance for persons with severe mental illnesses.	Support
AB 850	Chau	Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.	Vetoed	This bill would require the Governor to appoint an additional member to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission who has knowledge and experience in reducing mental health disparities, especially for racial and ethnic communities.	Support
AB 1315	Mullin	Mental health: early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention.	Chaptered	This bill would create the Early Psychosis Intervention Competitive Selection Process Plus Program and an advisory committee to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to expand the provision of early psychosis detection and intervention services.	Support
AB 1688	Committee on Health	Community health services: California Mental Health Planning Council, California Children's Services program, Alameda County pilot program, and Medi-Cal managed care.	Chaptered	Clarifying bill that repeals outdated reference to an Alameda county pilot and renames CA Mental Health Planning Council to the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council and update functions to include substance use disorder to reflect integration of mental health and substance use disorder services. Also incorporated the ABX1-1 reporting changes from SB 152 and AB 180.	Support

Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 265	Wood	Prescription drugs: prohibition on price discount.	Chaptered	Prohibits pharmaceuticals from offering discounts that reduce an individual's out-of-pocket expenses, copayments or deductible, for any prescription drug if a lower cost generic prescription drug is available that is therapeutically equivalent to the prescription drug manufactured by that person. Amended to allow exceptions for individuals who have completed step therapy and to clarify that prescription drugs may be offered for free or through an independent patient assistant program.	
SB 17	Hernandez	Health care: prescription drug costs.	Chaptered	Requires drug makers to give notice to specified purchasers before raising prices and requires health plans to report the proportion of the premiums spent on prescription drugs.	Support
Providers					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 148	Mathis	California Physician Corps Program: practice setting.	2 Year Bill	This bill would require, for the Steve Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, that the clinic or the physician owned and operated medical practice setting have at least 30% of patients, if the area is rural, or at least 50% of patients, if the area is urban, on Medi-Cal.	
AB 651	Muratsuchi	Nonprofit health facilities: sale of assets: Attorney General approval.	Chaptered	Requires the Attorney General to consider the adverse impact on significant cultural interests in the affected community when a non-profit health facility is being sold and to ensure that notices of public meetings prior to the approval of a sale be in all languages widely spoken in the county.	Support
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 4	Mendoza	Medi-Cal: county organized health system: County of Orange.	Chaptered	This bill would codify the current CalOptima board membership composition and tenure; the qualifications for individual members; change the procedure for removing a member by requiring a 2/3 vote instead of majority vote; and allow board to increase the number of public members subject to a 2/3 vote. Provisions sunset in 2023.	
SB 54	De León	Law enforcement: sharing data.	Chaptered	Makes California a sanctuary state for immigrants to the extent allowed by federal law.	Support
SB 244	Lara	Privacy: agencies: personal information.	2 Year Bill	Directs that personal information shall only be collected and retained by state agencies and those contracted to administer public services or programs for the purpose of assessing eligibility for and providing those public services and programs for which the application has been submitted. The amended version has removed some of the sweeping provisions but retains protections in licensing, driver's licenses, and education that did not previously exist.	Support

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SB 623	Monning	Water quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.	2 Year Bill	Establishes a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund focusing on small disadvantaged communities funded largely by fees on agriculture. Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to spend money in the fund for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist those without access to safe and affordable drinking water. Exempts agriculture from certain enforcement actions.	Support
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