

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of September 11, 2018

The last day to pass any bill with a cost out of second house fiscal committee was August 17 although those decisions were made public a day earlier during suspense file hearing. Further narrowing the number of bills that passed the Legislature and made it to the Governor's desk was the deadline to pass bills on August 31. This also ushered recess and the end of the two-year legislative calendar. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto bills.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 11	McCarty	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: screening services.	ENROLLED	This bill would require screening services under the EPSDT program include developmental screening services for individuals zero to 3 years of age and be in compliance with the periodicity schedule and screening tools that are established by the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care.	
AB 2233	Kalra	Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program.	ENROLLED	This bill would require DHCS to submit in 2019 to CMS a request for renewal of the Assisted Living Waiver program to increase the slots that would be phased in on a regional basis.	Support
AB 2427	Wood	Medi-Cal: anticompetitive conduct.	ENROLLED	Prohibits "anti-competitive conduct" from Medi-Cal managed care plans.	
AB 2430	Arambula	Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons.	DEAD	This bill would raise the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled income level to 138% FPL, an amount equivalent to most other Medi-Cal income levels for adults. Co-sponsors: DRC, Justice in Aging, and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2579	Burke	Medi-Cal: California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.	DEAD	Creates an express lane process to enroll in Medi-Cal for children and mothers receiving WIC.	Support
AB 2718	Friedman	Medi-Cal: CalWORKs: eligibility.	DEAD	Allows for 12 continuous months of Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC) for families leaving CalWORKS instead of 6 months, plus an additional 6 months if income is still below 185% FPL.	Support
AB 2861	Salas	Medi-Cal: telehealth: alcohol and drug use treatment.	ENROLLED	This bill would require DHCS to allow a licensed practitioner of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder services provided through telehealth in accordance with the Medicaid state plan.	
AB 2965	Arambula	Medi-Cal: immigration status.	DEAD	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to adults age 19-25 who but for their immigration status would be eligible.	Support
SB 275	Portantino	Alcohol and drug treatment: youth.	ENROLLED	The bill would require DHCS to convene an expert panel on or before March 1, 2019, to advise the department on the development of youth substance use disorder treatment, early intervention, and prevention quality standards and to adopt regulations on those standards by 2020.	
SB 974	Lara	Medi-Cal: immigration status: adults.	DEAD	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to adults age 65 and older who but for their immigration status would be eligible.	Support

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SB 1108	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage.	ENROLLED	Prohibits DHCS from seeking or obtaining a federal Medicaid waiver to require work requirements, waiting periods, time limits, coverage lockouts, or any other condition of Medi-Cal eligibility or coverage not authorized by state or federal law.	Sponsor
SB 1264	Stone	Medi-Cal: hypertension medication management services.	DEAD	This bill would authorize pharmacists to provide hypertension management services to Medi-Cal members and to access the state health information exchange and any relevant continuity of care documents maintained by a health facility.	
SB 1287	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: medically necessary services.	ENROLLED	This bill would codify in state statute the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) standards for Medi-Cal services applied to children under age 21 to ensure the correct medical necessity standard is used for children under age 21. Co-sponsored by National Health Law Program and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
Access to Justice					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1526	Kalra	Debt collection.	CHAPTERED	Reforms California's statute of limitations for consumer debt (including medical debt) so that a collection agency or original creditor cannot sue after the statute has run, and requires notice to the consumer that a debt may not be litigated or reported to a credit reporting agency when such activities are time-barred.	Sponsor
AB 2376	Stone, Mark	Civil actions: provisional remedies: injunctions.	CHAPTERED	Clarifies which taxpayers can claim taxpayer standing to ensure that residents who do not own property or are not citizens can claim standing.	Sponsor
Civil Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1971	Santiago	Mental health services: involuntary detention: gravely disabled.	DEAD	Expands the potential use of conservatorships by expanding the definition of "gravely disabled." Amendments narrowing the scope pending.	Oppose
SB 1045	Wiener	Conservatorship: serious mental illness and substance use disorders.	ENROLLED	Establishes a new conservatorship process for certain persons who have mental illness and substance use disorder. Pilot project for SF, LA, and SD only.	Oppose
SB 1152	Hernandez	Hospital patient discharge process: homeless patients.	ENROLLED	Places additional requirements on hospitals to ensure that patients are not discharged without appropriate shelter, clothing, and medical support.	Support
SB 1190	Skinner	Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program.	DEAD	Establishes the Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program to provide victim compensation to any survivor of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to eugenics laws that existed in the State of California between 1909 and 1979.	Support

Covered California					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2459	Friedman	Personal income taxes: credits: health insurance premiums.	DEAD	Would allow a California tax credit for people earning over 400% FPL to ensure that no one pays more than 8% of their income for a Bronze health plan starting January 1, 2019.	
AB 2472	Wood	Health care coverage.	ENROLLED	Requires Covered California to study the feasibility of offering additional public plans on Covered California.	Support
AB 2565	Chiu	Affordability assistance: cost sharing.	DEAD	Provides additional premium assistance for Covered California.	Support
SB 1245	Leyva	Covered California.	ENROLLED	Allows Covered California to continue using emergency rulemaking authority.	Support
SB 1255	Hernandez	Health insurance market: financial assistance.	DEAD	Provides additional premium assistance and cost-sharing reductions for Covered California enrollees.	Support
Dental					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 707	Cannella	Medi-Cal: Denti-Cal Advisory Group.	ENROLLED	This bill would, until January 1, 2023, establish the Denti-Cal Advisory Group to study the policies and priorities of Denti-Cal.	Support
SB 1008	Skinner	Health insurance: dental services: reporting and disclosures.	ENROLLED	This bill would require dental insurance plans to use a uniform summary of benefits form that explains benefits and coverage concisely allowing for easy comparisons across dental plans.	Support
SB 1148	Pan	Medi-Cal: restorative dental services.	ENROLLED	This bill would add silver diamine fluoride as a caries arresting agent as a covered Medi-Cal benefit.	
SB 1464	Wiener	Medi-Cal: benefits: enrollees with special dental care needs.	DEAD	This bill would require DHCS cover behavior management and dental case management necessary to provide dental services for Denti-Cal beneficiaries with special dental care needs and establish reimbursement for these services.	Support
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1909	Nazarian	In-home supportive services: written content translation.	ENROLLED	Requires DSS to translate notices, timesheets, and other forms for IHSS workers.	Support
AB 2275	Arambula	Medi-Cal managed care: quality assessment and performance improvement.	VETOED	This bill would improve the quality of health care services provided by Medi-Cal managed care plans and reduce health disparities by holding plans accountable so that Medi-Cal enrollees achieve better health outcomes. Co-sponsors: CPEHN and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2299	Chu	Medi-Cal: managed care plans: informational materials.	ENROLLED	Requires DHCS to ensure that all written health education and informing materials produced by managed health care plans, whether in English or threshold languages, are subject to a readability checklist and a community review.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2434	Bloom	Strategic Growth Council: Health in All Policies Program.	DEAD	Requires the Strategic Growth Council to establish a Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force to incorporate health, equity, and sustainability considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas.	Support

SB 1423	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: oral interpretation services.	ENROLLED	Modifies the minimum qualifications that an interpreter is required to possess to provide oral interpretation services to an LEP beneficiary enrolled in either a Medi-Cal managed care plan or a mental health plan.	Support
Health Insurance Market					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 595	Wood	Health care service plans: mergers and acquisitions.	CHAPTERED	This bill would institute stronger state oversight of health plan mergers by providing the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) with clear authority to scrutinize how mergers impact consumers and purchasers, and the health system as a whole.	Support
AB 2499	Arambula	Health care coverage: medical loss ratios.	ENROLLED	Codifies into state law the ACA regulation to maintain a 85% medical loss ratio requirement for plans sold in the large group market and 80% for those sold in the small or individual market.	Support
AB 2941	Berman	Health care coverage: state of emergency.	CHAPTERED	Requires a health care service plan or health insurer to ensure its enrollees or insureds who have been displaced by a state of emergency have continued access to medically necessary health care services.	Support
SB 910	Hernandez	Short-term limited duration health insurance.	ENROLLED	Prohibits the sale of short-term health insurance in California.	Support
SB 1156	Leyva	Health care service plans and health insurance: 3rd-party payments.	ENROLLED	Adds requirements for a person or company that purchases health insurance on behalf of somebody else if the purchaser stands to benefit financially from that health insurance policy.	
Lead Testing					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2122	Reyes	Medi-Cal: blood lead screening tests.	ENROLLED	This bill would require DHCS to ensure that a child enrolled in Medi-Cal receives blood lead screening tests, require DHCS to report blood lead screening tests for all enrolled children annually on its website, and notify and educate parents and providers.	Support
AB 2370	Holden	Lead exposure: child day care facilities: family day care homes.	ENROLLED	This bill would require licensed child care centers to have its drinking water tested for lead contamination levels and to notify parents of children enrolled in the day care center of the requirement to test the drinking water and the test results.	Support
AB 2976	Quirk	Childhood lead poisoning: prevention.	DEAD	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to coordinate with the Department of Health Care Services to gather data to determine whether children on Medi-Cal are being screened for lead poisoning.	
SB 1041	Leyva	Childhood lead poisoning prevention.	ENROLLED	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to notify medical providers about, and the providers to inform parents about, state and federal child lead-testing requirements.	Support
SB 1097	Hueso	Lead poisoning.	ENROLLED	This bill would require case management efforts related to lead poisoning report to contain specified information for each county, including the number of children screened for risk of lead poisoning.	Support

Managed Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2674	Aguiar-Curry	Health care service plans: disciplinary actions.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require DMHC to review provider complaints that a health plan has underpaid or failed to pay the provider and to conduct an audit and an enforcement action.	
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2112	Santiago	Federal 21st Century Cures Act: community-based crisis response plan: grant.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require DHCS to develop and submit a proposal to solicit a grant under the federal 21st Century Cures Act to develop a community-based crisis response plan.	
AB 2119	Gloria	Foster care: gender affirming health care and mental health care.	ENROLLED	This bill would clarify the right of foster youth to gender affirming health care and gender affirming mental health care and requires the Department of Social Services to develop and issue written guidance regarding foster youth access to gender affirming health care and gender affirming mental health care	Support
AB 2193	Maienschein	Maternal mental health.	ENROLLED	This bill would require providers who provide prenatal or postpartum care for a patient, or pediatric care for an infant, to offer and screen a mother (if the mother agrees) for maternal mental health conditions.	
AB 2316	Eggman	Mental health: county patients' rights advocates: training materials.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the contracted entity that provides protection and advocacy services to persons with mental disabilities to make patients' rights advocacy training materials readily accessible to all county patients' rights advocates online.	
SB 906	Beall	Mental health services and substance use disorder treatment: peer support specialist certification.	ENROLLED	This bill would require DHCS to establish a Peer Support Specialist Certification Program.	Support
SB 1004	Wiener	Mental Health Services Act: prevention and early intervention.	ENROLLED	This bill would require the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to establish priorities for the use of prevention and early intervention funds and to develop a statewide strategy for monitoring implementation as well as require counties to focus the prevention and early intervention portion of its local plan on the priorities established by the commission.	
SB 1019	Beall	Youth mental health and substance use disorder services.	ENROLLED	This bill would require the Mental Health Services Accountability and Oversight Commission to allocate at least half of the triage grant funding to youth 18 years or younger to Local Education Agencies (LEA) and mental health partnerships.	Support
SB 1125	Atkins	Federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.	ENROLLED	This bill would allow FQHCs and RHCs to bill Medi-Cal for two visits if a patient is provided mental health services on the same day they receive other medical services subject to budget appropriation.	Support

Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1860	Limón	Health care coverage: cancer treatment.	ENROLLED	Deletes a sunset on cost caps on copayments for oral anticancer medication.	
AB 1998	Rodriguez	Opioids: safe prescribing policy.	DEAD	This bill would require providers authorized to prescribe opioid drugs to adopt a safe prescribing protocol and establishes an unspecified goal for a percentage reduction in opiate prescriptions that must be reported on by the California Department of Public Health by July 2024.	
AB 2384	Arambula	Medication-assisted treatment.	ENROLLED	This bill would require most health insurers to cover medication-assisted treatment for Californians with opioid use disorder and naloxone for any person who is at risk of overdose. The bill sunsets in 2024.	Support
AB 2487	McCarty	Physicians and surgeons: continuing education: opiate-dependent patient treatment and management.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require a physician to complete a one-time continuing education course on either pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients or opiate-dependent patient treatment and management unless exempted.	
AB 2760	Wood	Prescription drugs: prescribers: naloxone hydrochloride and other FDA-approved drugs.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require a prescriber to prescribe naloxone, a lifesaving opioid reversal drug, for patients when certain conditions are present and to provide specified education to those patients and their households.	Support
SB 1021	Wiener	Prescription drugs.	ENROLLED	Removes the January 1, 2020 sunset on the \$250 monthly cost sharing prescription drug cap and prioritizes single-tablet HIV/AIDS regimens over multitablet regimens.	Support
Reimbursement and Rates					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 349	McCarty	Drug Medi-Cal Treatment Program: ratesetting process.	ENROLLED	This bill would require DHCS to adopt regulations by July 2020 on the method of determining the maximum allowable reimbursement rates for Drug Medi-Cal and group outpatient drug free services.	
AB 2029	Garcia, Eduardo	Federally Qualified Health Clinics: rural health clinics.	DEAD	This bill would require the FQHC and RHC adjusted per-visit rate to include direct costs, administrative costs, and costs related to FQHC and RHC services rendered outside of the respective facility.	
AB 2118	Cooley	Medi-Cal: emergency medical transportation services.	DEAD	This bill would exempt publicly owned or operated ground ambulance providers from the quality assurance fee imposed by the Medi-Cal Emergency Medical Transportation Reimbursement Act and would authorize a supplemental Medi-Cal reimbursement for these governmental entities through a managed care intergovernmental transfer program.	
AB 2593	Grayson	Air ambulance services.	ENROLLED	This bill would prohibit balance billing by out of network emergency air ambulance providers and increase the Medi-Cal rate for air ambulance services.	Support

Women's Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 320	Leyva	Public university student health centers: medication abortion readiness: abortion by medication techniques: College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund.	ENROLLED	Requires the UC and Cal State on-campus student health centers to prepare to provide abortion by medication and establishes the privately-funded Medication Abortion Implementation Fund pay for the services.	Support
SB 1023	Hernandez	Reproductive health care coverage.	DEAD	Allows the use of telehealth in the Family PACT program and Medi-Cal managed care provided clinical guidelines are followed.	
Workforce					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2018	Maienschein	Mental health workforce planning: loan forgiveness, loan repayment, and scholarship programs.	DEAD	This bill would adds psychiatric trainees to the list of healthcare providers eligible to participate in the Steve Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program.	
AB 2143	Caballero	Mental health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program.	ENROLLED	This bill would add physician assistants who specialize in mental health services and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners to those licensed mental health service providers eligible for educational loan repayment grant.	
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2749	Bonta	State agencies: state entities: Internet Web site accessibility: standards: mobile-friendly: requirements.	ENROLLED	Requires state agency websites to be mobile friendly prevents such websites from going live until mobile friendly and accessible by individuals with disabilities.	Support
SB 1238	Roth	Patient records: maintenance and storage.	DEAD	Prevents the destruction of medical records without notification.	Support
SB 1396	Galgiani	Accessible state technology.	DEAD	Requires enhanced monitoring and designates officers responsible for compliance with state and federal accessibility laws with regards to state websites.	Support

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