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Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 2, 2018

September 30 was the deadline for the Governor to sign, veto, or not sign any bill on his desk at the end of the 2017-2018 legislative session. The Legislature is on recess until December 5, 2018 when the 2019-2020 Legislature will be sworn in. Western Center advocates are now in the process of planning for 2019 and a new administration.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 11	McCarty	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: screening services.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	Prohibits "anti-competitive conduct" from Medi-Cal managed care plans.	
AB 2861	Salas	Medi-Cal: telehealth: alcohol and drug use treatment.	CHAPTERED	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.	
SB 275	Portantino	Alcohol and drug treatment: youth.	VETOED	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 1108	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage.	CHAPTERED	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 1287	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: medically necessary services.	CHAPTERED	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
SB 1045	Wiener	Conservatorship: serious mental illness and substance use disorders.	CHAPTERED	Establishes a new conservatorship process for certain persons who have mental illness and substance use disorder. Pilot project for SF & LA only.	Oppose
SB 1152	Hernandez	Hospital patient discharge process: homeless patients.	CHAPTERED	Places additional requirements on hospitals to ensure that patients are not discharged without appropriate shelter, clothing, and medical support.	Support
Covered California					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2472	Wood	Health care coverage.	CHAPTERED	Requires Covered California to study the feasibility of offering additional public plans on Covered California.	Support
SB 1245	Leyva	Covered California.	CHAPTERED	Allows Covered California to continue using emergency rulemaking authority.	Support
Dental					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 707	Cannella	Medi-Cal: Denti-Cal Advisory Group.	VETOED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	VETOED	This bill would add silver diamine fluoride as a caries arresting agent as a covered Medi-Cal benefit.	
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1909	Nazarian	In-home supportive services: written content translation.	VETOED	Requires DSS to translate notices, timesheets, and other forms for IHSS workers.	Support

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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.	VETOED	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
SB 1423	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: oral interpretation services.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	Prohibits the sale of short-term health insurance in California.	Support
SB 1156	Leyva	Health care service plans and health insurance: 3rd-party payments.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	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.	CHAPTERED	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
SB 1041	Leyva	Childhood lead poisoning prevention.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	VETOED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	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.	CHAPTERED	Deletes a sunset on cost caps on copayments for oral anticancer medication.	

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AB 2384	Arambula	Medication-assisted treatment.	VETOED	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.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	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 2593	Grayson	Air ambulance services.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	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
Workforce					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2143	Caballero	Mental health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program.	VETOED	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.	VETOED	Requires state agency websites to be mobile friendly prevents such websites from going live until mobile friendly and accessible by individuals with disabilities.	Support

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