

## Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of March 13, 2019

2019 is the first year of a two-year legislative session (2019-20). The bill introduction deadline was February 22, but there are still some spot bills which have not yet been amended with substantive content. To move forward, bills with a fiscal cost will need to be heard in policy committee by April 26 and bills without a fiscal cost have until May 3. The first health policy bill hearings of the session begin next Tuesday for Assembly Health and next Wednesday for Senate Health. Below is a summary of bills that impact low-income consumers.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 4	Arambula	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults regardless of immigration status.	Support
AB 50	Kalra	Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program.	Assembly Health	This bill would require DHCS to submit renewal request of the Assisted Living Waiver program, expanding the number of waiver slots and geographic region.	Support
AB 316	Ramos	Medi-Cal: benefits: beneficiaries with special dental care needs.	Assembly Health	This bill would require DHCS to implement a payment adjustment to Denti-Cal providers who provide dental services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries with special dental care needs.	
AB 526	Petrie-Norris	Public social services: SSI/SSP.	Assembly	Currently in spot form, this will be the vehicle to create the WIC to Medi-Cal express lane.	
AB 577	Eggman	Medi-Cal: maternal mental health.	Assembly Health	Extends Medi-Cal postpartum care for up to one year for individuals with a maternal mental health condition.	
AB 683	Carrillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Health	Eliminates the assets test for the Medicare Savings Programs and raises the assets limit for other Non-MAGI Medi-Cal programs. Co-sponsor: Justice in Aging.	Co-Sponsor
AB 715	Arambula	Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons.	Assembly Health	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 741	Arambula	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: universal trauma screening.	Assembly	This bill would provide Legislative intent to implement provider training to ensure the success and sustainability of universal trauma screening.	
AB 744	Aguiar-Curry	Healthcare coverage: telehealth.	Assembly Health	This bill would delete provisions that require Medi-Cal patients receiving telehealth services be notified of the right to receive interactive communication with a distant specialist physician, optometrist, or dentist.	
AB 763	Gray	Children's services.	Assembly Health	This bill would change reporting requirement of the Whole Child Model from annual to monthly and would require information regarding appeals and hearings be made available on performance dashboard.	

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AB 781	Maienschein	Medi-Cal: family respite care.	Assembly Health	This bill would specify that pediatric day healthcare services may be provided at any time of the day and on any day of the week, so long as the total number of authorized hours is not exceeded.	
AB 914	Holden	Medi-Cal: inmates: eligibility.	Assembly	Spot bill on the suspension of Medi-Cal while incarcerated.	
AB 977	Stone, Mark	Medi-Cal: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment.	Assembly	This bill would declare legislative intent to ensure that children enrolled in Medi-Cal receive timely access to care and preventative care services, based upon the findings of the California State Auditor.	Support
AB 990	Gallagher	Medi-Cal: Medi-Cal managed care plans: financial incentives.	Assembly	Spot bill to create financial incentives for Medi-Cal recipients participating in wellness activities.	
AB 1004	McCarty	Developmental screening services.	Assembly Health	This bill would require that screening services provided as an EPSDT benefit include developmental screening services for children through age 3; require DHCS to ensure a Medi-Cal managed care plan's ability and readiness to perform developmental screening services and adjust plan's capitation rate through value-based purchasing program; and require an external quality review organization entity to annually review, survey, and report on plan compliance with specified developmental screening tools and schedules.	
AB 1042	Wood	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: home upkeep allowances: transitional needs funds.	Assembly Health	Increases the allowed home upkeep allowance and transitional needs fund for persons likely to leave nursing home care.	Support
AB 1088	Wood	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Health	Stops beneficiaries from bouncing between free and share-of-cost Medi-Cal by treating Part B premium deductions the same for applicants as for recipients. Co-sponsors: Justice in Aging and Disability Rights CA.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 1494	Aguiar-Curry	Medi-Cal: telehealth: state of emergency.	Assembly Health	This bill would allow for telehealth in states of emergency if federal financial participation is available.	
AB 1642	Wood	Medi-Cal: managed care plans.	Assembly	This bill would require the external quality review organization that provides an annual report on how Medi-Cal managed care plan is meeting the Medicaid managed care final rules to include in that report the extent to which each Medi-Cal managed care plan uses telehealth to meet time and distance standards.	
SB 29	Durazo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate Health	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults regardless of immigration status.	Support
SB 66	Atkins	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.	Senate Health	This bill would allow FQHC and RHCs to bill Medi-Cal two visits if a patient is provided mental health services on the same day they receive other services.	Support
SB 214	Dodd	Medi-Cal: California Community Transitions program.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to implement and administer the California Community Transitions program, which provides funding for low-income people with disabilities to transition from skilled nursing facilities back into homes of their own.	
SB 289	Archuleta	Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.	Senate Health	Keeps family members of a military service member on the HCBS waitlist while the member is deployed as long as they retain California residence.	

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SB 361	Mitchell	Medi-Cal: Health Home Program.	Senate Health	This bill would remove restrictions around State funding and termination of Health Home Program after two years to eliminate perception that program is “pilot” and ensure chronically homeless individuals are targeted through partnership with homeless systems, enhanced outreach rate, and data collection. Cosponsors: Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, and Western Center.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
SB 503	Pan	Medi-Cal: managed care plan: subcontracts.	Senate Health	This bill would align state sanction authority with federal sanction authority; codify language that makes clear health plan's responsibility, regardless of subcontracting; require plans to conduct annual audits of delegated entities and report on data of delegated entities. Co-sponsors: National Health Law Program and WCLP.	<b>Co-sponsor</b>
SB 525	Stone	Medi-Cal: benefits: blood factors.	Senate	This bill would state legislative intent to protect access to blood factors and pharmacy services for Medi-Cal patients.	
<b>Benefits</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 678	Flora	Medi-Cal: podiatric services.	Assembly Health	This bill would restore podiatric services as a Medi-Cal benefit.	
AB 848	Gray	Medi-Cal: covered benefits: continuous glucose monitors.	Assembly Health	This bill would add continuous glucose monitors and related supplies required for use with those monitors as a Medi-Cal when medically necessary.	Support
SB 154	Pan	Medi-Cal: restorative dental services.	Senate Health	This bill would add silver diamine fluoride as a caries arresting agent as a covered Medi-Cal benefit.	
SB 207	Hurtado	Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services.	Senate Health	This bill would include asthma preventive services as a covered Medi-Cal benefit and require DHCS to develop with external stakeholders a coverage policy consistent with specified federal and clinically appropriate guidelines.	Support
SB 446	Stone	Medi-Cal: hypertension medication management services.	Senate Health	This bill would provide that hypertension medication management services as a covered pharmacist service under the Medi-Cal program.	
<b>Covered CA</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 174	Wood	Personal income taxes: credits: health insurance premiums.	Assembly Health	Adds additional state-funded premium tax credits for individuals from 0% to 800% FPL.	Support
AB 929	Rivas, Luz	California Health Benefit Exchange: data collection.	Assembly Health	Requires the Covered CA Board to make public plan-specific data on cost reduction efforts, quality improvements, and disparity reductions.	Support
AB 1063	Petrie-Norris	Healthcare coverage: waivers.	Assembly Health	This bill would prevent Covered CA section 1113 waivers that reduce eligibility for Covered CA plans or the affordability and scope of those plans by requiring legislative approval for waiver requests. Co-sponsor: Health Access.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 1309	Bauer-Kahan	Health care coverage: enrollment periods.	Assembly Health	Extends the Covered California open enrollment period by two weeks back to January 31st.	Support
SB 65	Pan	California Health Benefit Exchange: financial assistance.	Senate Health	Adds additional premium support for households below 400% FPL and additional cost-sharing reductions for households between 200-400% FPL.	Support

SB 260	Hurtado	Automatic healthcare coverage enrollment.	Senate Health	Allows Covered California to automatically enroll people losing Medi-Cal and reach out to others losing health coverage. Co-sponsor: Health Access.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
<b>Disparities Reduction</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 229	Nazarian	In-home supportive services: written content translation.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires DSS to translate written materials for providers of IHSS services such as timesheets, notices, etc.	
AB 318	Chu	Medi-Cal materials: readability.	Assembly Health	Requires DHCS and the plans to field test translated Medi-Cal documents and establishes a readability workgroup to identify and improve a minimum of 10 key Medi-Cal documents. Co-sponsor: California Pan Ethnic Health Network	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 537	Arambula	Medi-Cal managed care: quality improvement and value-based financial incentive program.	Assembly Health	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.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
SB 165	Atkins	Medical interpretation services.	Senate Health	Extends the medical interpretation pilot project for Medi-Cal.	
SB 464	Mitchell	California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.	Senate Health	Requires implicit bias training for all perinatal providers and improved data collection in order to reduce the maternal mortality disparity between black women and other women in California. Co-sponsors: Black Women for Wellness LA, NARAL Pro-Choice CA, ACT for Women & Girls.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
<b>Civil Rights</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 648	Nazarian	Wellness programs.	Assembly Health	A spot bill that will regulate employer wellness programs.	Support
AB 1572	Chen	Mental health services: gravely disabled.	Assembly	Changes the definition of "gravely disabled" thereby expanding who can be conserved and creates a \$20 mil grant program to fund increased conservatorship caseloads.	
AB 1764	Carrillo	Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program.	Assembly	Establishes the Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program to compensate victims of state-sponsored sterilization conducted from 1909 to 1979. Victims were primarily low-income people of color.	Support
SB 40	Wiener	Conservatorship: serious mental illness and substance use disorders.	Senate	Follow up from last year's SB 1045 - removes the requirement to offer assisted outpatient treatment first.	
SB 640	Moorlach	Mental health services: gravely disabled.	Senate	This bill changes the definition of "gravely disabled" thereby expanding who can be conserved.	
<b>Health Coverage</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 45	Stone, Mark	Inmates: medical care: fees.	Assembly Appropriations	Prohibits jails and prisons from charging inmates for medical services.	Support
AB 414	Bonta	Healthcare coverage: minimum essential coverage.	Assembly Health	Reinstates the individual mandate penalty and mandates that funds collected be used to make health coverage affordable.	
AB 598	Bloom	Hearing aids: minors.	Assembly Health	This bill would require health plans to cover hearing aids for children.	

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AB 810	Gipson	Organ and tissue transplantation: uninsured or undocumented individuals.	Assembly Health	Requires DPH to convene a workgroup and publish a report by 1/1/21 on recommendations for covering transplants for uninsured or undocumented residents.	
AB 876	Flora	Health care coverage.	Assembly Health	Spot bill to mandate that health coverage that is available to dependents is available to all relatives in the household.	
AB 1246	Limón	Healthcare coverage: basic health care services.	Assembly Health	Requires large group health insurance policies to cover medically necessary prescription drugs if they cover prescription drugs.	
AB 1268	Rodriguez	Health care coverage: prospective review.	Assembly Health	Requires plans to report approvals and denials for each health care service requested when prior authorization is required.	
SB 175	Pan	Healthcare coverage: minimum essential coverage.	Senate Health	Reinstates the individual mandate penalty and mandates that funds collected be used to make health coverage affordable.	
Health Plans					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 290	Wood	Health care service plans and health insurance: third-party payments.	Assembly Health	Sets standards governing the reimbursement of financially interested third parties who pay patients' premiums.	
AB 731	Kalra	Health care coverage: rate review.	Assembly Health	Applies the same transparency requirements for rate hikes for large group plans as for small group plans.	Support
SB 343	Pan	Healthcare data disclosure.	Senate Health	Requires Kaiser to file the same information regarding rates and costs as other health plans and hospitals.	Support
SB 612	Pan	Health care: data reporting.	Senate	This bill would require health plans, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, and medical groups to report to OSHPD information about their participation in collaboratives and activities that provide incentive payments and resources to providers for achieving clinical integration and collaboration to reduce the total cost of care and improve population health for people with high risk conditions, such as asthma, heart disease and diabetes.	
Medical Debt					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 651	Grayson	Air ambulance services.	Assembly Health	Protects insured consumers by prohibiting any payment greater than the current in-network cost-sharing amount for air ambulance services (and increases the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for air ambulances).	Support
AB 1404	Santiago	Payers' Bill of Rights.	Assembly	Requires hospitals to provide information about applying for public health programs when a person without health coverage seeks an estimate for the cost of services.	
AB 1611	Chiu	Emergency hospital services: costs.	Assembly	Prohibits hospitals from charging insured individuals more in out-of-pocket costs than they would pay for contracted services in an emergency and creates a dispute resolution process for the hospital and health plan.	Support
AB 1630	Irwin	Medical billing task force.	Assembly	Requires OSHPD to establish a task force to make medical bills understandable.	

SB 639	Mitchell	Medical services: credit or loan.	Senate	Prohibits medical providers from offering medical credit cards with deferred interest provisions along with other consumer protections to ensure Medi-Cal recipients and others aren't wrongly signed up for medical credit cards.	Sponsor
<b>Mental Health</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 385	Calderon	Medi-Cal: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment mental health services: performance outcome system platform.	Assembly Health	This bill would require DHCS to develop a platform, or integrate with an existing platform, to support the EPSDT mental health performance outcome system that will help reduce need for assessments from different providers.	
AB 389	Arambula	Substance use disorder treatment: peer navigators.	Assembly Health	This bill would establish a pilot program or expand an existing pilot program for purposes of measuring the efficacy and cost avoidance of utilizing trained substance use disorder peer navigators and behavioral health peer navigators in the emergency department of an acute care hospital.	
AB 512	Ting	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services.	Assembly Health	This bill would require county mental health plans, in collaboration with stakeholders, to report on additional criteria in their cultural competency plans; require DHCS to annually review and monitor mental health disparities reduction; and develop performance targets that reduce disparities and improve mental health quality.	
AB 565	Maienschein	Mental health workforce planning: loan forgiveness, loan repayment, and scholarship programs.	Assembly Health	This bill would expand Steven Thompson Physician Loan Repayment program to include physicians who serve in a county mental health plan.	
AB 1058	Salas	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services and substance use disorder treatment.	Assembly	This bill would declare legislative intent to establish a pilot program to integrate specialty mental health services and substance use disorder treatment provided under the Medi-Cal program.	
AB 1175	Wood	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services.	Assembly	This spot bill would improve access and coordination of mental health services for Medi-Cal enrollees by requiring DHCS to produce detailed reports of non-specialty mental health utilization and improve care coordination through shared process to track referrals. Cosponsors: NHeLP and Western Center.	Co-sponsor
AB 1619	Weber	Mental Health Loan Assumption Program.	Assembly	This bill would appropriate \$20 million to increase the maximum grant amount for Mental Health Loan Assumption Program recipients to \$15,000 and to implement an informational outreach program to attract diverse applicants. The program is a loan forgiveness program to retain professionals working within the public mental health system.	
SB 10	Beall	Mental health services: peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification.	Senate Health	This bill would establish a Peer Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by DHCS.	Support
SB 11	Beall	Health care coverage: mental health parity.	Senate Health	This bill would prohibit a health plan that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders from imposing any prior authorization requirements on FDA-approved prescriptions and require health plans to submit an annual report to certify compliance with state and federal parity laws.	

Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 204	Wood	Hospitals: community benefits plan reporting.	Assembly Health	Requires OSHPD to develop regulations to standardize the calculation and reporting of hospital community benefits.	
AB 824	Wood	Business: preserving access to affordable drugs.	Assembly Health	Adds agreements by drug manufacturers to keep generics off the market to the Unfair Business Practices Act.	Support
AB 875	Wicks	Pupil health: in-school support services.	Assembly	This bill, known as the Healthy Start Support Services for Children Act, would award grants to local educational agencies or consortia to fund programs in schools that provide support services, which include case-managed health, mental health, social, and academic support services, to eligible pupils and their families.	
ACR 1	Bonta	Immigration: public charges.	Assembly Human Services	Condemns the proposed public charge regulations.	Support
SB 24	Leyva	Public health: public university student health centers: abortion by medication techniques.	Senate Health	Requires CalStates and UCs to offer abortion by medication services.	Support

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