



Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of August 6, 2019

The Legislature has been on recess since July 12. When it reconvenes August 12, fiscal bills will have to go through the second house appropriations committee by August 30, and all bills must pass the second house floor by September 13. Some bills that did not make it out of the second house policy committees prior to the break are now 2-year bills. Following is a summary of bills in the Legislature that affect the health of low-income Californians.

Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 50	Kalra	Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program.	Senate Appropriations	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 526	Petrie-Norris	Medi-Cal: California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.	Senate Appropriations	Streamlines enrollment between WIC & Medi-Cal.	Support
AB 744	Aguiar-Curry	Health care coverage: telehealth.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require health care contracts to specify that the plan is required to reimburse the provider for the diagnosis, consultation, or treatment delivered through telehealth and cover health care delivered through telehealth on the same basis and to the same extent as in-person diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.	
AB 763	Gray	Medi-Cal specialty mental health services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to convene a stakeholder workgroup to develop standard forms to be used by county mental health plan providers for performing the intake of, the assessment of, and the treatment planning for children on Medi-Cal who are eligible for specialty mental health services.	Support
AB 914	Holden	Medi-Cal: inmates: eligibility.	Senate Appropriations	Requires suspension of Medi-Cal eligibility while incarcerated (instead of termination after a year) for individuals under age 26 and requires DHCS to develop a simplified annual redetermination for these individuals.	Support
AB 1004	McCarty	Developmental screening services.	Senate Appropriations	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 1042	Wood	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: home upkeep allowances: transitional needs funds.	Senate Appropriations	Increases the allowed home upkeep allowance and transitional needs fund for persons likely to leave nursing home care.	Support

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of August 6, 2019

AB 1088	Wood	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate Appropriations	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 & Disability Rights CA	Co-Sponsor
AB 1494	Aguiar-Curry	Medi-Cal: telehealth: state of emergency.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would allow for telehealth in states of emergency if federal financial participation is available.	
AB 1642	Wood	Medi-Cal: managed care plans.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would impose additional requirements on Medi-Cal managed care plans that are unable to meet network adequacy standards; require the department to conduct preventative outreach and education for Medi-Cal enrollees; and increase the department's sanction authority against plans.	Support
SB 29	Durazo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults regardless of immigration status, age 65 and above.	Support
SB 66	Atkins	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Support
SB 289	Archuleta	Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows family members of a military service member to return to their place on the HCBS waitlist when regaining their California residency.	
SB 361	Mitchell	Medi-Cal: Health Homes Program.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Co-Sponsor
SB 503	Pan	Medi-Cal: managed care plan: subcontracts.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Co-Sponsor
Benefits					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 166	Gabriel	Medi-Cal: violence preventive services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to establish a violence intervention pilot program for eligible Medi-Cal enrollees.	
AB 678	Flora	Medi-Cal: podiatric services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would subject a podiatrist providing services to the same Medi-Cal prior authorization and billing policies as required for a physician.	Support
AB 848	Gray	Medi-Cal: covered benefits: continuous glucose monitors.	Senate Appropriations	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.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Assembly Appropriations	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
Covered CA					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 174	Wood	Health care coverage: financial assistance.	Senate Appropriations	Amended to require Covered California to issue quarterly reports regarding the new state subsidy program.	Support
AB 929	Rivas, Luz	California Health Benefit Exchange: data collection.	Senate Appropriations	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.	2-year bill	Prohibits Covered CA section 1113 waivers absent specific statutory authority to ensure that eligibility, affordability, and scope of plans provided is not reduced.	Co-Sponsor
AB 1309	Bauer-Kahan	Health care coverage: enrollment periods.	Senate Appropriations	Extends the Covered California open enrollment period by two weeks back to January 31st.	Support
SB 65	Pan	Health care coverage: financial assistance.	Assembly Appropriations	Amended to require Covered California to issue quarterly reports regarding the new state subsidy program.	Support
SB 260	Hurtado	Automatic health care coverage enrollment.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows Covered California to automatically enroll people losing Medi-Cal/MCAP/CCHIP and reach out to others losing health coverage.	Co-Sponsor
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 318	Chu	Medi-Cal materials: readability.	Senate Appropriations	Requires DHCS to field test all translated Medi-Cal documents and the plans to field test specified informing documents. Also establishes a readability workgroup to identify and improve a minimum of 10 key Medi-Cal documents. Co-sponsor: California Pan Ethnic Health Network	Co-Sponsor
SB 165	Atkins	Medical interpretation services.	Assembly Appropriations	Extends the medical interpretation pilot project for Medi-Cal.	Support
SB 464	Mitchell	California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.	Assembly Appropriations	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-Sponsor
Civil Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 40	Wiener	Conservatorship: serious mental illness and substance use disorders.	Assembly Appropriations	Follow up from last year's SB 1045 - removes the requirement to offer assisted outpatient treatment prior to conserving someone with a history of substance abuse, mental illness, and a record of arrests or 5150s.	Oppose

Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 45	Stone, Mark	Inmates: medical care: fees.	Senate Appropriations	Prohibits jails and prisons from charging inmates for medical services.	Support
AB 414	Bonta	Health care coverage: minimum essential coverage.	Senate Appropriations	Amended to require the Franchise Tax Board to report data regarding the new state individual mandate and penalty.	
AB 598	Bloom	Hearing aids: minors.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require health plans to cover hearing aids (up to \$3,000) for children.	
AB 1246	Limón	Health care coverage: basic health care services.	Senate Floor	Requires large group health insurance policies to cover the same medically necessary services as Knox-Keene regulated plans.	Support
Health Plans					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 290	Wood	Health care service plans and health insurance: third-party payments.	Senate Appropriations	Sets standards governing the reimbursement of financially interested third parties who pay patients' premiums.	
AB 577	Eggman	Health care coverage: maternal mental health.	Senate Appropriations	Increases continuity of care protections for post partum mental health treatment in DMHC and DOI regulated plans.	
AB 731	Kalra	Health care coverage: rate review.	Senate Appropriations	Applies the same transparency requirements for rate hikes for large group plans as for small group plans.	Support
SB 343	Pan	Health care data disclosure.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires Kaiser to file the same information regarding rates and costs as other health plans and hospitals.	Support
Medical Debt					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 651	Grayson	Air ambulance services.	Senate Appropriations	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
SB 639	Mitchell	Medical services: credit or loan.	Assembly Appropriations	Prohibits medical providers from signing patients up for 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
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 512	Ting	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services.	Senate Appropriations	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.	Support
AB 565	Maienschein	Public health workforce planning: loan forgiveness, loan repayment, and scholarship programs.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would expand Steven Thompson Physician Loan Repayment program to include physicians who serve in a county mental health plan.	

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of August 6, 2019

AB 826	Reyes	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster youth.	2-year bill	This bill would require HHS agency in order to facilitate the receipt of medically necessary specialty mental health services by a foster youth who is placed in a short-term residential therapeutic program outside of their original county, to coordinate with DHCS and DSS to issue policy guidance concerning the determination of the county of responsibility, in consultation with stakeholders.	
AB 1058	Salas	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services and substance use disorder treatment.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to develop recommendations through stakeholder process for addressing barriers to the delivery of integrated behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health condition.	
AB 1175	Wood	Medi-Cal: mental health services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would strengthen referral, care coordination, continuity of care, and dispute resolution process between Medi-Cal plans and county mental health plans. The bill would also build upon existing data requirements to inform strategies to improve access to mental health services. Cosponsors: NHeLP and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
SB 10	Beall	Mental health services: peer support specialist certification.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would establish a Peer Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by DHCS.	Support
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 204	Wood	Hospitals: community benefits plan reporting.	Senate Appropriations	Allows OSHPD to fine hospitals that fail to report their community benefits or methodology for determining said benefits.	
AB 824	Wood	Business: preserving access to affordable drugs.	Senate Appropriations	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.	2-year bill	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.	Senate Floor	Condemns the proposed public charge regulations.	Support
SB 24	Leyva	Public health: public university student health centers: abortion by medication techniques.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires CalStates and UCs to offer abortion by medication services.	Support
SB 695	Portantino	Special education: individualized education	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the local educational agency (LEA) to provide parents whose native language is not English with timely access to a translation of their child's individualized education plan (IEP).	Support

For more information contact:

Jen Flory 916.282.5141
Linda Nguy 916.282.5117

jflory@wclp.org
lnguy@wclp.org