



2019 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR HEALTH CARE

AB 1088 (WOOD) **MEDI-CAL: ELIGIBILITY**

PROBLEM: Beneficiaries bounce between free and share-of-cost Medi-Cal, creating an unhealthy and destabilizing yo-yo effect.

Some seniors and persons with disabilities need both Medi-Cal & Medicare to cover their health care costs. They qualify for free Medi-Cal, but when the state starts paying their Medicare Part B premium, they are moved into share-of-cost Medi-Cal and have to pay over half of their income to get care. Once they start paying their own Part B premium again, they qualify for free Medi-Cal, until the state starts paying their Part B premium again. This is not how the program was intended to work.

SOLUTION: AB 1088

Keeps these individuals on Medi-Cal regardless of who pays the premium, as long as income remains the same.

SB 639 (MITCHELL) **MEDICAL SERVICES: CREDIT OR LOAN**

PROBLEM: High-interest credit cards hoisted onto patients in high-stress medical situations.

Patients are encouraged to sign up for high-interest medical credit cards while awaiting services in treatment rooms. Without time and means to research alternatives, and in such stressful circumstances, consumers don't have the opportunity to fully understand what they are signing up for, often plunging them into insurmountable debt.

SOLUTION: SB 639

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.

SB 260 (HURTADO) **AUTOMATIC HEALTH CARE COVERAGE ENROLLMENT**

PROBLEM: Gaps in health coverage between Medi-Cal and Covered California.

Even though Medi-Cal and Covered California share the same statewide eligibility system, people still have trouble moving from Medi-Cal to Covered California without a gap in coverage.

SOLUTION: SB 260

Allows Covered California to automatically enroll people losing Medi-Cal and related programs, like the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) and County Children's Health Initiative Programs (C-CHIP), and to reach out to others losing health coverage.