



Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of July 13, 2020

Following is a summary of bills in the Legislature that affect the health of low-income Californians. All bills that are advancing are in the second house now. However, due COVID-19 cases in the Legislature, the return from the summer break has been delayed and at this time the schedule is uncertain. At time of writing, the Legislature should return July 27 to move all bills through second house policy committee, appropriations, and final floor votes by August 31. Some bills may not be set for hearing in policy committee and will not advance.

Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 683	Carrillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate 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 & Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
AB 910	Wood	Medi-Cal: dispute resolution.	Senate Health	This bill would strengthen the dispute resolution process between Medi-Cal plans and county mental health plans when there is disagreement about which plan is responsible for providing mental health services to a Medi-Cal enrollee.	Co-Sponsor
AB 1994	Holden	Eligibility.	Senate Health	Codifies the federal requirement prohibiting the termination of Medi-Cal for youth who are incarcerated and extends the suspension of Medi-Cal from 1 year to 3.	Support
SB 29	Durazo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Floor	This 2-year bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults regardless of immigration status, age 65 and above.	Support
SB 361	Mitchell	Medi-Cal: Health Homes Program.	Assembly Appropriations	This 2-year 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 1029	Pan	Medi-Cal: County of Sacramento.	Assembly Health	This bill would establish a health authority in Sacramento County to create a Medi-Cal Oversight Commission to convene stakeholders to address Medi-Cal issues and help determine which plans may contract to provide Medi-Cal services in Sacramento County.	Support

Behavioral Health

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1976	Eggman	Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment.	Senate Health	Requires a county to have an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program (court-ordered treatment/Laura's Law) unless a county opts out by a resolution stating the reasons for opting out and facts or circumstances relied on in making that decision.	
AB 2025	Gipson	Mental illness and substance use disorder: restorative care program: pilot projects.	Senate Health	The bill would authorize the County of Los Angeles to establish a pilot project for up to 6 years to develop a restorative care program for community-based care and treatment that addresses the interrelated and complex needs of individuals suffering from mental illness and substance use disorder, along with other medical comorbidities, and homelessness.	
AB 3242	Irwin	Mental health: involuntary commitment.	Senate Health	Allows for telehealth for evaluations for 72-hour involuntary commitment ("5150 holds").	

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SB 665	Umberg	Mental Health Services Fund: county jails.	Assembly Health	This bill would authorize the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to provide services to individuals incarcerated in a county jail or subject to mandatory supervision, inconsistent with the MHSA.	Oppose
SB 803	Beall	Mental health services: peer support specialist certification.	Assembly Health	This bill would establish a statewide certification program for peer support specialists and provides the structure needed to maximize the federal match for peer services under Medi-Cal.	Support
SB 855	Wiener	Health coverage: mental health or substance abuse disorders.	Assembly Health	This bill would require a health plan that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. The bill would prohibit a health plan from limiting benefits or coverage for chronic or pervasive mental health and substance use disorders to short-term or acute treatment.	Support
Consumer Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2520	Chiu	Access to medical records.	Senate Health	This bill would require providers to complete public benefit form, clarifies that legal aid advocates can access medical records without cost for patient regarding eligibility for public benefit program, and expands access to free medical records to include immigrants who are survivors of crime or domestic violence, CAPI, and government housing assistance programs.	Sponsor
Cost Containment					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2118	Kalra	Health care service plans and health insurers: reporting requirements.	Senate Health	Requires California-regulated health plans in the individual and small group market to report rates to their regulator.	Support
AB 2830	Wood	Health Care Payments Data Program.	Senate Health	Establishes a Health Care Cost Transparency Database within the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to collect and streamline information related to healthcare costs, quality, and equity from available data sources.	Support
Health Insurance Market					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 65	Pan	Health care coverage: financial assistance.	Assembly Appropriations	Amended to set additional Covered California subsidies for all income levels from 0-600% FPL and add additional Cost Sharing Reductions set at an 80% actuarial value (Gold Plan level) for incomes between 200-400%.	Support
SB 175	Pan	Health care coverage.	Assembly Health	Amended to allow CA's protections against health plan lifetime and annual limits to stand even if the ACA is repealed by deleting reference to federal law.	Support
Lead Testing					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2060	Holden	Drinking water: pipes and fittings: lead content.	Senate Environmental Quality	This bill would prohibit the sale of any drinking water faucet, fixture, or water fountain, that leaches more than 1 micrograms of lead after the first three weeks of use to reduce exposure to lead.	Support
AB 2276	Reyes	Medi-Cal: Blood lead screening tests.	Senate Health	This bill would require Medi-Cal plan contract to ensure lead testing requirements are met, require DHCS to monitor and report blood lead screening tests for all enrolled children annually on its website, and notify and educate parents and providers of missed screening.	Support

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AB 2277	Salas	Medi-Cal: Blood lead screening tests.	Senate Health	This bill would require Medi-Cal plans to identify every enrollee who does not have a record of completing blood lead tests and remind the provider of the need to perform those tests. The bill would also require DHCS to notify parents or guardians if their child has missed a required blood lead test as part of a annual preventive services notification.	Support
AB 2279	Garcia, Cristina	Childhood lead poisoning prevention.	Senate Health	This bill would add risk factors to be considered as part of the standard of care for child who are at risk for lead poisoning, including a child's residency in a high-risk ZIP Code. This bill would also require the Department of Public Health to update its formula for allocating funds to local agencies that administers the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.	Support
Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2100	Wood	Medi-Cal: pharmacy benefits.	Senate Health	This bill would provide important consumer protections for Medi-Cal enrollees receiving prescription drugs in the fee-for-service delivery system, including access to independent medical review, continuity of care, and other protections.	Co-Sponsor
SB 852	Pan	Health care: prescription drugs.	Assembly Health	Would establish the Office of Drug Contracting and Manufacturing within the California Health and Human Services Agency to, among other things, increase patient access to affordable drugs. The bill would require the office, on or before January 1, 2022, to contract or partner with at least one drug company or generic drug manufacturer to produce at least 10 generic prescription drugs, as determined by the office, and insulin at a price that results in savings. The bill would require the office to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2022, that, among other things, assesses the feasibility of the office to directly manufacture generic prescription drugs and includes an estimate of the cost of building or acquiring manufacturing capacity.	Support
Reproductive Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 732	Bonta	County jails: prisons: incarcerated pregnant persons.	Senate Public Safety	Improves screening, care, treatment for pregnant people who are incarcerated. Requires jails and prisons to provide menstrual supplies at no cost.	Support
SB 1237	Dodd	Nurse-midwives: scope of practice.	Assembly Business & Professions	Removes the requirement for physician supervision for nurse midwives to improve birth equity outcomes.	Support
Telehealth					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2164	Rivas, Robert	Telehealth.	Senate Health	This bill would create the E-Consult Services and Telehealth Assistance Program within DHCS to award grants to health center-controlled networks, health centers, and rural health clinics to conduct projects to implement and test the effectiveness of e-consult services and related telehealth services.	
AB 2360	Maienschein	Telehealth: mental health.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to establish a pilot project to provide psychiatry doctor-to-doctor consults on pediatric and maternal mental health. Cosponsors: 2020 Mom and Maternal Mental Health Now.	
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1107	Chu	Proclaimed state and local emergencies: proclamations, communications, and materials: translation.	Senate Governmental Organization	Requires all proclamations, communications, materials, and announcements made by the Governor or a state agency related to a state of emergency to be made available in all Medi-Cal threshold languages and all emergency-related county materials to be translated into languages spoken by more than 1000 residents of the county.	

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AB 2037	Wicks	Health facilities: notices.	Senate Health	Would require a hospital that provides emergency medical services to provide public notice at least 180 days before a planned reduction or elimination of the level of emergency medical services or closure of the the facility and at least 90 days prior to eliminating or relocating a supplemental service.	
AB 2077	Ting	Hypodermic needles and syringes.	Senate Health	This bill would allow pharmacists to provide sterile syringes as part of the state's approach to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C as well as decriminalizes the possession of syringes for personal use.	Support
AB 2218	Santiago	Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund.	Senate Health	Establishes the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund for grants to transgender-led nonprofit organizations and medical providers that provide gender-conforming health care services or have an established partnership with a transgender-led nonprofit organization, to fund programs focused on coordinating trans-inclusive medical care, behavioral health care, and social services.	Support
AB 2377	Chiu	Adult residential facilities: closures and resident transfers.	Senate Human Services	This bill would create more stringent closure requirements for Adult Residential Facilities.	
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