



Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 5, 2020

Following is a summary of bills in the Legislature that affect the health of low-income Californians. The deadline for bills to pass out of the Legislature was August 31 and the Governor had until September 30 to sign or veto bills. Chaptered bills will take into effect January 1, 2021 unless otherwise noted. This is the end of a two-year session, so no bills will continue on to next year's session.

Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2100	Wood	Medi-Cal: pharmacy benefits.	VETOED	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.	Co-Sponsor Veto Message
AB 2276	Reyes	Childhood lead poisoning: screening and prevention.	CHAPTERED	This bill is now a combination of three lead bills, AB 2276, 2277, and 2279, and would implement the California Auditor's recommendations to increase blood lead level screenings of children in the Medi-Cal program and update the factors for evaluating risk of lead poisoning.	Sponsor

Behavioral Health

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1976	Eggman	Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment.	CHAPTERED	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 3242	Irwin	Mental health: involuntary commitment.	CHAPTERED	Allows for telehealth for evaluations for 72-hour involuntary commitment ("5150 holds").	
SB 803	Beall	Mental health services: peer support specialist certification.	CHAPTERED	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 use disorders.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require a health plan 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.	Support

Consumer Rights

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2520	Chiu	Access to medical records.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	Requires California-regulated health plans in the individual and small group market to report rates to their regulator.	Support
SB 852	Pan	Health care: prescription drugs.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require the Health and Human Services Agency to enter into partnerships to produce or distribute generic prescription drugs and require the Agency to submit a report to assess the feasibility and advantages of directly manufacturing and selling generic prescription drugs.	Support

Reproductive Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 732	Bonta	County jails: prisons: incarcerated pregnant persons.	CHAPTERED	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.	CHAPTERED	Limits the physician supervision requirement for nurse midwives to improve birth equity outcomes.	Support
Telehealth					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2164	Rivas, Robert	Telehealth.	VETOED	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.	Veto Message
AB 2360	Maienschein	Telehealth: mental health.	VETOED	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.	Veto Message
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2037	Wicks	Health facilities: notices.	CHAPTERED	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 facility and at least 90 days prior to eliminating or relocating a supplemental service.	
AB 2077	Ting	Hypodermic needles and syringes.	CHAPTERED	This bill would allow pharmacists to continue 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.	CHAPTERED	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	Residential facilities.	CHAPTERED	This bill would create more stringent closure requirements for Adult Residential Facilities.	
For more information contact:					
Jen Flory		916.282.5141	jflory@wclp.org		
Linda Nguy		916.282.5117	lnguy@wclp.org		