

## Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of August 11, 2021

The deadline for bills to move out of second house policy committee was July 14. Bills that did not pass out of second house policy committee and are not moving forward this year have been marked as "2-year bills". All bills moving forward this year are in the second house and bills with a fiscal impact must pass out of the Appropriations committee by August 27th. The Legislature will reconvene on August 16. Because AB 133, the health trailer bill, was signed over the recess, many bills will be significantly amended once the Legislature reconvenes or have been made 2-year bills to account for wins in the budget. 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 4	Arambula	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults regardless of immigration status.	Support
AB 369	Kamlager	Medi-Cal services: persons experiencing homelessness.	Senate Appropriations	This bill seeks to increase health care access for individuals experiencing homelessness by allowing for care to be provided in nontraditional settings.	Support
AB 382	Kamlager	Whole Child Model program.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	This bill would extend the Whole Child Model stakeholder advisory group from the end of 2021 to end of 2023.	Support
AB 470	Carrillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate Appropriations	Eliminates the consideration of assets for the purpose of determining Medi-Cal eligibility. Will still move forward to make the necessary conforming changes in the Welf & Inst. Code to account for the elimination of the assets test in 2024 as provided in the budget.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 540	Petrie-Norris	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would exempt PACE beneficiary from active or passive enrollment in Medi-Cal managed care and ensure PACE is presented as an enrollment option.	Support
AB 563	Berman	School-based health programs.	<b>2-year bill</b>	This bill would establish an Office of School-Based Health Programs to provide technical assistance, outreach, and informational materials to local schools on allowable services and on the submission of claims related to the delivery of school-based Medi-Cal services.	
AB 1132	Wood	Medi-Cal.	<b>2-year bill</b>	Combined CalAIM bill related to application assistance for inmates, the Global Payment Program, creation of a performance dashboard, behavioral health, and older adults and people with disabilities.	Support
AB 1214	Waldron	Medi-Cal eligibility.	<b>2-year bill</b>	Allows Medi-Cal eligibility for persons who are incarcerated to start 30 days prior to their release date to facilitate enrollment and plan selection.	Support
SB 56	Durazo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible elders age 65 and older regardless of immigration status.	Support
SB 226	Pan	Medi-Cal: County of Sacramento.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would establish a local health authority to designate plans to serve as Medi-Cal managed care plans in Sacramento County.	Support

SB 256	Pan	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal.	2-year bill	CalAIM bill related to Population Health Management, Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services, mandatory managed care enrollment, regional rate setting, and incentive payment.	
SB 281	Dodd	Medi-Cal: California Community Transitions program.	2-year bill	This bill would make the Community Care Transitions Program permanent and reduce time needed to have resided in a Skilled Nursing Facility to 60 days, even after COVID. Sponsors: East Bay Innovations and DRC	Support
SB 316	Eggman	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would allow community health center to bill Medi-Cal for two visits if a patient is provided behavioral health services on the same day they receive other medical services.	Support
<b>Disparities Reduction</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1007	Carrillo	Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program.	Senate Appropriations	Establishes Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program to provide compensation to survivors of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to California eugenics laws and to survivors of coercive sterilization performed in prisons. Requires the board to conduct outreach to locate qualified recipients, disclose a coerced sterilization, and review applications for victim compensation. Funded in the Budget.	Support
AB 1038	Gipson	California Health Equity Program.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would establish the California Health Equity Program under the Department of Public Health, a competitive grant program to support local health departments, nonprofits, clinics and tribes to address health inequities.	Support
AB 1094	Arambula	Sexual orientation and gender identity data collection pilot project.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to establish a 3-year pilot program in up to 6 counties, for coroners and medical examiners, following training, to begin data collection of gender identity and sexual orientation in cases of violent death and to aggregate, deidentify, and annually report the data to the board of supervisors and the department.	Support
AB 1204	Wicks	Hospital equity reporting.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require a hospital or medical group to prepare and annually submit an equity report to OSHPD.	Support
AB 1358	Muratsuchi	Demographics: ancestry and ethnic origin.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require key state agencies collect and release standardized and disaggregated data for communities of color.	Support
HR 39	Gipson	Relative to equity impact analysis of legislation.	<b>ADOPTED</b>	Requires the Assembly to explore methods to integrate equity more formally into its daily activities, including the potential adoption of equity impact analysis into the current committee and floor bill analysis process.	Support
SB 17	Pan	Office of Racial Equity.	Assembly Appropriations	Establishes the Office of Racial Equity, an independent public entity to coordinate, analyze, develop, evaluate, and recommend strategies for advancing racial equity across state agencies, departments, and the office of the Governor. Requires the office to develop a statewide Racial Equity Framework providing guidelines for inclusive policies and practices that reduce racial inequities, promote racial equity, address individual and structural racism.	Support

SB 65	Skinner	Maternal care and services.	Assembly Appropriations	CA Omnibus Bill - Extends postpartum Medi-Cal coverage for 12 months, adds Medi-Cal doula coverage, adds increased income support via CalWORKs and a monthly income stipend for pregnant and postpartum people, improves the maternal and infant mortality and morbidity investigation processes, and adds a program to fund midwife trainee placements. Will be amended to move the pieces	Co-Sponsor
SB 682	Rubio	Childhood chronic health conditions: racial disparities.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the Health and Human Services Agency to create a plan that intentionally and proactively responds to known racial disparities in children's chronic disease. Sponsor: Children Now	Support
<b>Behavioral Health</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 226	Ramos	Children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would reclassify children's crisis residential programs as children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities and transfer licensing responsibility to DHCS, upon budget appropriations, to maximize federal funding. Sponsor: California Alliance of Child and Family Services.	
AB 586	O'Donnell	Pupil health: health and mental health services: School Health Demonstration Project.	2-year bill	This bill would express legislative intent to develop a two-year grant program to assist local educational agencies in building infrastructure and partnerships to secure ongoing federal Medi-Cal funding for mental health services.	
AB 1051	Bennett	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster youth.	Senate Appropriations	The bill would prohibit the presumptive transfer of foster youth placed in a group home or a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) unless an exception is invoked and make the county probation agency or the child welfare services agency responsible for determining whether invoking the exception is appropriate. Sponsor: CBHDA	
SB 221	Wiener	Health care coverage: timely access to care.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require health plans and insurers to provide patients with timely follow-up care for mental health issues and substance use disorders.	Support
SB 293	Limón	Medi-Cal specialty mental health services.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS with stakeholder consultation, to streamline and standardize forms for the intake of, assessment of, and the treatment planning of specialty mental health services for children on Medi-Cal.	Support
SB 773	Roth	Medi-Cal managed care: behavioral health services.	2-year bill	This bill would require DHCS to make incentive payments from Jan 2022 to Dec 2024 to qualifying Medi-Cal managed care plans that meet predefined goals and metrics associated with targeted interventions to be determined in consultation with stakeholders.	
<b>Health Coverage</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 342	Gipson	Health care coverage: colorectal cancer: screening and testing.	Senate	Requires more screening for colorectal cancer and prohibits a health plan contract or a health insurance policy from imposing cost sharing on individuals between 50 and 75 years of age for colonoscopies conducted for specified purposes.	
AB 347	Arambula	Health care coverage: step therapy.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require health plans to grant a step therapy exception if specified criteria are met. Excludes Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Support If Amended

AB 570	Santiago	Dependent parent health care coverage.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would enable persons to enroll their dependent parent(s) in their health insurance coverage.	Support
SB 245	Gonzalez	Health care coverage: abortion services: cost sharing.	Assembly Appropriations	Prohibits a health plan from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement on coverage for all abortion services.	Support
SB 250	Pan	Health care coverage.	2-year bill	Requires health plans to collect all cost-sharing from patients rather than providers.	
SB 306	Pan	Sexually transmitted disease: testing.	Assembly Appropriations	Aims to increase access to STD treatment by adding STD services to Family PACT, allowing prescriptions sexual partners when diagnosing an STD, and increasing access to home test kits, among other provisions.	Support
<b>Health Insurance Market</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 493	Wood	Health insurance.	2-year bill	Deletes provisions tying various consumer protections to the Affordable Care Act so they stand alone in state law.	Support
SB 255	Portantino	Health care coverage: employer associations.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows for employer to group to form Association Health Plans under the ERISA rules rather than Knox Keene.	
SB 326	Pan	Health care coverage: federal health care reforms.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows many Affordable Care Act consumer protections to remain in state statute even if the corresponding federal provision is no longer in effect, such as guaranteed issuance, the ban on pre-existing condition exclusions, the individual mandate, rates based solely on age and region, and the requirement to provide all essential health benefits.	Support
SB 368	Limón	Health care coverage: deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires health plans to track deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for enrollees.	Support
SB 568	Pan	Deductibles: chronic disease management.	2-year bill	Exempts drugs for chronic conditions from deductibles.	
<b>Medical Debt</b>					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 532	Wood	Health care: fair billing policies.	Senate	Requires notice of financial assistance when patients are discharged from the hospital and requires information about the Health Consumer Alliance.	Support
AB 1020	Friedman	Health care debt and fair billing.	Senate Appropriations	Enhances the enforcement of the Hospital Fair Pricing Act by imposing penalties for violations and adding requirements when filing a collections suit for hospital debt to show that the person has been screened for Medi-Cal or financial assistance.	Co-Sponsor
SB 531	Wieckowski	Consumer debt.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires specified information about a consumer debt when a debt collector first attempts to collect a debt.	Support

Telehealth					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 14	Aguiar-Curry	Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would prioritize the deployment of broadband infrastructure in California's underserved communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds deposited into the California Advanced Services Fund to provide communities with grants.	Support
AB 32	Aguiar-Curry	Telehealth.	2-year bill	This bill would make permanent certain COVID19 telehealth flexibilities.	
SB 4	Gonzalez	Communications: California Advanced Services Fund: deaf and disabled telecommunications program: surcharges.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would prioritize the deployment of broadband infrastructure in California's underserved communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds deposited into the California Advanced Services Fund to provide communities with grants.	Support
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 100	Holden	Drinking water: endpoint devices: lead content.	Senate Appropriations	This bill seeks to reduce Californians' daily exposure to lead by prohibiting the sale of any drinking water faucet, fixture, water fountain or other end use device that, after three weeks of testing, leaches more than one microgram of lead into one liter of drinking water.	Support
AB 326	Rivas, Luz	Health care service plans: Consumer Participation Program.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would permanently establish the Consumer Participation Program, which awards fees to individual or organization that has made a substantial contribution in representing consumers in regulation or decision adoption, within the Department of Managed Health Care. Co-sponsored CPeHN and Health Access.	Co-Sponsor
AB 814	Levine	Personal information: contact tracing.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would prohibit law enforcement officials from engaging in contact tracing and limit contact tracing data to be used only for contact tracing purposes.	Support
AB 1046	Rubio, Blanca	Nurse-Family Partnership program.	Senate Rules	This bill would require Health and Human Services Agency convene a working group to assess and provide uniform recommendations on how to use Medi-Cal reimbursement for evidence-based home visiting.	Support
AB 1130	Wood	California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act.	2-year bill	Establishes the Office of Health Care Affordability within OSHPD to analyze the health care market for cost trends, develop data-informed policies for lowering health care costs, set and enforce cost targets, and create a state strategy for controlling the cost of health care for consumers and purchasers.	Support
SB 40	Hurtado	Health care workforce development: California Medicine Scholars Program.	Assembly Appropriations	5-year pilot to create a medical school pipeline for Black & Latinx community college students in an effort to increase the number of primary care physicians of color.	Support
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