

## Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of October 13, 2021

All bills had to pass both houses by September 10 in order to be sent to the Governor for signing this year. The Governor had until October 10 to act on "enrolled" bills. Bills he signed or took no action on are "chaptered" and will become law on January 1 unless stated otherwise in the bill. Bills that he vetoed are dead and will not move forward next year. Bills that did not pass out of the Legislature are denoted as 2-year bills, and will not move forward this year but may resume in January when the Legislature reconvenes. 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 369	Kamlager	Medi-Cal services: persons experiencing homelessness.	<b>VETOED</b>	This bill seeks to increase health care access for individuals experiencing homelessness by allowing for care to be provided in nontraditional settings.	Support
SB 226	Pan	Medi-Cal: County of Sacramento.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	This bill would establish a local health authority to designate plans to serve as Medi-Cal managed care plans in Sacramento County.	Support
SB 316	Eggman	Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.	2-year bill	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

### Disparities Reduction

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1094	Arambula	Sexual orientation and gender identity data collection pilot project.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	This bill would require a hospital or medical group to prepare and annually submit an equity report to OSHPD.	Support
SB 65	Skinner	Maternal care and services.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	California Omnibus Bill - remaining pieces improve the maternal and infant mortality and morbidity investigation processes, simplify the CalWORKs welfare-to-work exemption for pregnant people, and add a program to fund midwife trainee placements.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
SB 682	Rubio	Childhood chronic health conditions: racial disparities.	<b>VETOED</b>	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>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 226	Ramos	Children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities.	<b>VETOED</b>	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 1051	Bennett	Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster youth.	2-year bill	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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
<b>Health Coverage</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 342	Gipson D	Health care coverage: colorectal cancer: screening and testing.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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 D	Health care coverage: step therapy.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	This bill would require health plans to grant a step therapy exception if specified criteria are met. Excludes Medi-Cal managed care plans.	
AB 570	Santiago D	Dependent parent health care coverage.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	This bill would enable persons to enroll their dependent parent(s) in their health insurance coverage.	Support
SB 306	Pan D	Sexually transmitted disease: testing.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
SB 255	Portantino	Health care coverage: employer associations.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	Requires health plans to track deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for enrollees.	Support

<b>Medical Debt</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 532	Wood	Health care: fair billing policies.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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 financial assistance. Also increases minimum eligibility for assistance from 350% to 400% FPL.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
SB 531	Wieckowski	Consumer debt.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	Requires specified information about a consumer debt when a debt collector first attempts to collect a debt.	Support
<b>Telehealth</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 14	Aguiar-Curry	California Advanced Services Fund.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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
SB 4	Gonzalez	Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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
<b>Other</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 100	Holden	Drinking water: endpoint devices: lead content.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 1046	Rubio, Blanca	Nurse-Family Partnership program.	2-year bill	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
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