

## Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of April 13, 2022

The Legislature is currently in Spring Recess and will return on April 18. Bills that were introduced earlier this year and late last year are now being heard by their policy committees of jurisdiction. All bills with a cost must be heard by April 29 in their policy committee and after that will go the respective Appropriations Committees, which must wrap by May 20. The next two months will see a flurry of activity and Western Center will keep you posted on the latest developments. 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 470	Carillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility	2-Year Bill	This bill will clean up code for when the Medi-Cal assets test is eliminated on January 1, 2024, following the 2021 budget agreement that also raises the asset limits effective July 1, 2022.	Co-Sponsor
AB 1355	Levine	Medi-Cal: Independent Medical Review System.	2-Year Bill	This bill would expand the Independent Medical Review for all Medi-Cal service denials based on medical necessity. This bill will ensure more fairness in the Medi-Cal appeals process by expanding Independent Medical Reviews to all Medi-Cal members and services, and by standardizing the process state departments must follow when alternating judges' decisions in fair hearings. Independent Medical Reviews use medical professionals with expertise in the medical service at issue, resulting in more favorable and clinically sound outcomes for patients than plan appeals and state fair hearings.	Sponsor
AB 1900	Arambula	Medi-Cal: income level for maintenance.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would update the maintenance need levels to 138% of the FPL, eliminating the share of cost cliff so that older adults and people with disabilities are no longer forced to pay over half of their monthly income on health care if they are just \$1 over the program's limit. Cosponsors: Bet Tzedek, CANHR, DRC, Justice in Aging, and WCLP.	Co-Sponsor
AB 1930	Arambula	Medi-Cal: comprehensive perinatal services.	Assembly Health	This bill would extend the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) to cover the full year duration of postpartum eligibility from 60-days. Sponsor: MCHA	Support
AB 1937	Patterson	Medi-Cal: out-of-pocket pregnancy costs.	Assembly Health	This bill would establish a \$1,275 health expense account for pregnant Medi-Cal members in order to be reimbursed for costs associated with birth and infant care classes, doula services, midwifery care, lactation support services, prenatal vitamins, lab tests or screening, prenatal acupuncture or acupressure, and transportation.	

AB 1995	Arambula	Medi-Cal: premiums, contributions, and copayments.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would eliminate monthly Medi-Cal premiums and copayments. Cosponsors: Children Now and WCLP.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 2262	Calderon	In-home supportive services: needs assessment.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would eliminate the authority of the county to extend the annual assessment for IHSS beyond 12 months and, instead, establish an alternative annual reassessment process for recipients with stable needs.	
AB 2402	Rubio, Blanca	Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.	Assembly Appropriations	To prevent gaps and disruptions in early childhood preventive care, this bill would extend continuous Medi-Cal coverage from birth up to age 5 without requiring annual renewals.	Support
AB 2659	Patterson	Medi-Cal managed care: midwifery services.	Assembly Health	This bill would require a Medi-Cal managed care plan to have within its provider network at least one licensed midwife or certified-nurse midwife within each county where the Medi-Cal managed care plan provides services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.	
AB 2680	Arambula	Medi-Cal: Community Health Navigator Program.	Assembly Health	This bill would require DHCS to create the Community Health Navigator Program to make direct grants to qualified community-based organizations to conduct targeted outreach, enrollment, retention, and access activities for Medi-Cal-eligible individuals and families.	Support
AB 2697	Aguiar-Curry	Medi-Cal: community health workers and promotores.	Assembly Health	This bill would codify the Department of Health Care Services' proposal to make Community Health Worker/Promotores a Medi-Cal benefit.	Support
AB 2727	Wood	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Floor	This bill would update the legislative purpose and intent for the Medi-Cal program.	Support
AB 2823	Levine	Medi-Cal: home upkeep allowance.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill will help low-income persons living in a long-term care facility return home by raising the home upkeep allowance.	Support
SB 987	Portantino	California Cancer Care Equity Act.	Senate Health	This bill would require Medi-Cal plans to contract with at least one NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.	Support
SB 1019	Gonzalez	Medi-Cal managed care plans: mental health benefits.	Senate Appropriations	The bill would require Medi-Cal to provide enrollees with information on their mental health benefits, right to timely access to care, and linguistically-relevant resources on how to navigate health care plans; while collecting direct patient experiences to inform the state on how to close racial disparities in mental health. Sponsor: CPEHN	Support
SB 1089	Wilk	Medi-Cal: eyeglasses: Prison Industry Authority.	Senate Public Safety	This bill would, for purposes of Medi-Cal reimbursement, authorize an optometrist to purchase eyeglasses from a private entity, as an alternative to a purchase of eyeglasses from the Prison Industry Authority. Sponsor: CA Optometric Association	
<b>Disparities Reduction</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 2521	Santiago	Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, or Intersex Fund.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the DPH Office of Health Equity to establish a community advisory committee for the purpose of providing recommendations to the office on which organizations and entities to select for funding and amount for the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund.	Support

SB 558	Caballero	Farmworker Disaster Relief Planning Task Force.	<b>2-Year Bill</b>	This bill would convene the Farmworker Disaster Relief Planning Taskforce with state and farmworker community advocacy representatives to examine the needs of farmworkers, their families and communities on equitable access to health care, safety net services, protections and other social and economic relief during pandemics and disasters.	Support
SB 923	Wiener	Gender-affirming care.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would improve access to gender affirming care for transgender, gender diverse, and intersex (TGI) people by requiring health plans to make available and update a list of providers who provide gender affirming services and require the Health and Human Services Agency to convene a workgroup to develop quality standards for patient experience to measure cultural competency for TGI patients.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
<b>Health Coverage</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 1878	Wood	California Health Benefit Exchange: affordability assistance.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill (identical to SB 944 (Pan)) would implement health care affordability assistance through Covered California.	Support
SB 644	Leyva	Health care coverage outreach.	<b>2-Year Bill</b>	Requires EDD to share information with Covered California for outreach to persons applying for or losing unemployment benefits to enroll them in Covered CA or Medi-Cal.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
SB 944	Pan	California Health Benefit Exchange: affordability assistance.	Senate Appropriations	This bill (identical to AB 1878(Wood)) would implement health care affordability assistance through Covered California.	Support
SB 967	Hertzberg	Health care coverage: tax returns: information sharing authorization and outreach.	Senate Governance & Finance	This bill would add a checkmark on state tax forms for people to indicate if they are interested in receiving information about low-cost health care coverage options.	Support
<b>Other</b>					
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>WCLP Position</b>
AB 1130	Wood	California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act.	Senate Health	This bill would establish the Office of Health Care Affordability 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	Support
AB 1996	Cooley	State government: administrative regulations: review.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require each state agency to, on or before January 1, 2026, review that agency's regulations, identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, to revise those identified regulations, as provided, and report to the Legislature and Governor. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2027.	<b>Oppose</b>
AB 2080	Wood	Health Care Consolidation and Contracting Fairness Act of 2022.	Assembly Health	This bill would strengthen and extend the oversight of the California Attorney General and Department of Managed Health Care on health care mergers, acquisitions and other transactions, and also prohibit certain anti-competitive contracting clauses.	Support

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of April 13, 2022

AB 2326	Reyes	Lead poisoning prevention: laboratory reporting.	Assembly Health	This bill would require demographic information be reported from laboratories when performing blood lead analysis; authorize CDPH to share data with providers and public agencies; and align state blood lead level standards with federal standards.	Support
AB 2830	Bloom	The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.	Assembly Judiciary	This bill would establish the CARE Court framework.	Oppose
SB 858	Wiener	Health care service plans: discipline: civil penalties.	Senate Health	The bill would increase penalty amounts that the Department of Managed Health Care can levy against health plans. Sponsor: Health Access, Care4All bill.	Support
SB 1016	Portantino	Special education: eligibility: fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder be included under the “other health impairment,” definition for Individual Education Plans to expand eligibility for pupils to receive special education and related services.	Support
SB 1033	Pan	Health care coverage.	Senate Health	The bill would require health plans to establish standardized categories for the collection and reporting of demographic and health-related social needs data, and establish a fund to provide technical assistance to plans and providers on how to improve data collection standards.	Support
SB 1338	Umberg	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.	Senate Judiciary	This bill would establish the CARE Court framework.	Oppose
SB 1416	Eggman	Mental health services: gravely disabled persons.	Senate Health	This bill would enlarge the population eligible for involuntary treatment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act’s definition of “gravely disabled”.	Oppose
<b>For more information contact:</b>					
Linda Nguy	916.282.5117	<a href="mailto:lnguy@wclp.org">lnguy@wclp.org</a>			