

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of June 15, 2022

Bills are now in their second house and bills with a fiscal cost have until July 1st to pass out of their respective policy committee(s) before the Legislature recesses for a month long break. The Legislature reconvenes from summer recess on August 1st. 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	Carrillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Assembly Appropriations	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.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would expand the Independent Medical Review for all Medi-Cal service denials based on medical necessity and standardize the process state departments must follow when alternating judges' decisions in fair hearings.	Sponsor
AB 1900	Arambula	Medi-Cal: income level for maintenance.	Senate 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.	Senate Appropriations	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 1995	Arambula	Medi-Cal: premiums, contributions, and copayments.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would eliminate monthly Medi-Cal premiums and copayments. Cosponsors: Children Now and WCLP.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2402	Rubio, Blanca	Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.	Senate Health	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 2680	Arambula	Medi-Cal: Community Health Navigator Program.	Senate 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.	Senate Health	This bill would codify the Department of Health Care Services' proposal to make Community Health Worker/Promotores a Medi-Cal benefit.	Support

AB 2724	Arambula	Medi-Cal: alternate health care service plan.	Senate Health	This bill would allow the Department of Health Care Services to enter into direct, no-bid contract with Kaiser.	
AB 2727	Wood	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	Senate Floor	This bill would update the legislative purpose and intent for the Medi-Cal program.	Support
AB 2823	Levine	Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: home upkeep allowance and transitional needs allowance.	Senate 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.	Assembly 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.	Assembly Health	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.	Assembly 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	
SB 1180	Pan	Medi-Cal: time and distance standards for managed care services.	Assembly Health	This bill would extend the Medi-Cal managed care plan time and distance standards to January 1, 2026, and would require the department to seek input from stakeholders to determine what changes are needed to these provisions.	Support
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2199	Wicks	Birthing Justice for California Families Pilot Project.	Senate Health	This bill would establish the Birthing Justice for California Families Pilot Project to fund doula care to members of communities with adverse birth outcomes who are not eligible for Medi-Cal and individuals who are incarcerated.	Support
AB 2521	Santiago	Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, or Intersex Fund.	Senate Health	This bill would rename the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund to the Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, or Intersex Fund and define the terms transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex.	Support
SB 558	Caballero	Farmworker Climate Resilience Adaptation Program.	Assembly Emergency Management	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.	Assembly Health	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.	Co-Sponsor

Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1878	Wood	California Health Benefit Exchange: affordability assistance.	Senate Health	This bill (identical to SB 944 (Pan)) would implement health care affordability assistance through Covered California.	Support
SB 644	Leyva	Health care coverage outreach.	Assembly Labor & Employment	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.	Co-Sponsor
SB 944	Pan	California Health Benefit Exchange: affordability assistance.	Assembly Health	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.	Assembly Revenue & Taxation	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
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 1338	Umberg	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.	Assembly Judiciary	This bill would establish the CARE Court framework.	Oppose
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 controlling the cost of health care for consumers and purchasers.	Support
AB 1931	Rivas, Luz	Community water systems: lead pipes.	Senate Environmental Quality	This bill would require California water agencies to complete full lead service line replacements, cease partial replacements and immediately employ safeguards to ensure that Californians are protected against lead exposure caused by lead service line replacement activity.	Support
AB 2080	Wood	Health Care Consolidation and Contracting Fairness Act of 2022.	Senate 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
AB 2223	Wicks	Reproductive health.	Assembly Judiciary	This bill would would protect reproductive freedom by ensuring that no one in California will be investigated, prosecuted, or incarcerated for ending a pregnancy or experiencing pregnancy loss.	Support
AB 2326	Reyes	Lead poisoning prevention: laboratory reporting.	Senate Judiciary	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

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SB 838	Pan	Health care: prescription drugs.	Assembly Health	This bill would further efforts of the California Health and Human Services Agency towards creating a California branded label for generic drugs, and in particular insulin, to increase patient access to affordable drugs and lower health care costs.	Support
SB 858	Wiener	Health care service plans: discipline: civil penalties.	Assembly 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.	Assembly Education	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.	Assembly 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 1416	Eggman	Mental health services: gravely disabled persons.	Assembly Health	This bill would enlarge the population eligible for involuntary treatment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act’s definition of “gravely disabled”.	Oppose
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