

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

Below is a list of bills that impact access to health care for low-income Californians. The deadline for bills with a fiscal cost to make it through the second house appropriations committee was August 11 and August 31 is the final day of the legislative session. Bills that did not make it out of appropriations or the Legislature are denoted as "dead". Bills that have passed both houses have been sent to the Governor and are denoted as "enrolled". The Governor has until the end of September to sign or veto bills. Signed bills are denoted as "chapters", meaning they will become law on January 1, 2023 unless otherwise noted.

### Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 470	Carrillo	Medi-Cal: eligibility.	<b>DEAD</b>	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.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 1355	Levine	Public social services: hearings.	Enrolled	This bill would improve the public benefits appeals process by standardizing the process that state departments must follow when alternating judges' decisions in fair hearings.	<b>Sponsor</b>
AB 1900	Arambula	Medi-Cal: income level for maintenance.	<b>DEAD</b>	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.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 1930	Arambula	Medi-Cal: comprehensive perinatal services.	Enrolled	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	This bill would eliminate monthly Medi-Cal premiums and copayments. Cosponsors: Children Now and WCLP.	<b>Co-Sponsor</b>
AB 2402	Rubio, Blanca	Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.	<b>DEAD</b>	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	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, Enrolled, retention, and access activities for Medi-Cal-eligible individuals and families.	Support
AB 2697	Aguiar-Curry	Medi-Cal: community health worker services.	Enrolled	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	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.	Enrolled	This bill would require Medi-Cal plans to make good-faith effort to contract with at least one NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.	
SB 1019	Gonzalez	Medi-Cal managed care plans: mental health benefits.	Enrolled	The bill would require Medi-Cal plans to conduct annual outreach and education to members and primary care physicians regarding the mental health benefits covered by the plan.	Support
SB 1180	Pan	Medi-Cal: time and distance standards for managed care services.	<b>DEAD</b>	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.	Enrolled	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, and Intersex Fund.	Enrolled	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	This bill would create the Farmworker Climate Resilience Adaptation Program to award grants to eligible entities for the development and implementation of projects addressing the needs of farmworkers impacted by climate change and establishes the Farmworker Resilience Adaptation Task Force under the Strategic Growth Council.	Support
SB 923	Wiener	Gender-affirming care.	Enrolled	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	This bill (identical to SB 944 (Pan)) would implement health care affordability assistance through Covered California.	Support

SB 644	Leyva	Health care coverage outreach.	Enrolled	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.	<b>VETOED</b>	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.	<b>CHAPTERED</b>	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>
SB 1338	Umberg	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.	Enrolled	This bill would establish the CARE Court framework.	<b>Oppose</b>
AB 1931	Rivas, Luz	Community water systems: lead service lines.	<b>DEAD</b>	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 2223	Wicks	Reproductive health.	Enrolled	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.	Enrolled	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
SB 838	Pan	Health care: prescription drugs.	Enrolled	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.	Enrolled	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.	Enrolled	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.	<b>DEAD</b>	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
<b>For more information contact:</b>					
Linda Nguy		916.282.5117	<a href="mailto:lnguy@wclp.org">lnguy@wclp.org</a>		