



April 15, 2014

Maternal and Child Health-Related Legislation

**California State Legislature**

**2013-14 Session**

The following are some of the Maternal and Child Health and health coverage-related bills presented for this session, 2013-14 as of the date above. This is the end of a two-year legislative session, meaning that bills held to carry over into this legislative session beginning in January must succeed or will die and have to be introduced. **Please let MCHA know of bills we may have missed! See our contact information below. To read the full text of bills, go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) to “Bill Information”.**

## Legislation Signed, Vetoed or Held

### Access and Insurance Coverage

#### **AB 209**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: managed care: quality, accessibility, and utilization**

**Status: Senate Inactive File**

This bill would require DHCS to develop and implement a plan to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality and accessibility of health care and dental services provided through Medi-Cal managed care, including holding quarterly public meetings and appointing an advisory committee to make recommendations to the department and the Legislature.

#### **AB 369**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Continuity of Care**

**Status: SIGNED as urgency bill**

This bill would require a health care service plan and a health insurer to arrange for the completion of covered services by a nonparticipating provider for a newly covered enrollee and a newly covered insured under an individual health care service plan contract or an individual health insurance policy whose prior coverage was withdrawn from the market between December 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014 (the insurance removed from market as “junk” insurance or not meeting ACA standards), inclusive, as specified.

#### **AB 505**

**Author: Nazarian**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.**

**Status: Senate inactive file**

This bill would codify the Medi-Cal managed care thresholds for translated documents.

### **AB 617**

**Author: Nazarian**

**Topic: California Health Benefit Exchange: appeals.**

**Status: Senate Appropriations**

This bill would establish a notice and appeals process for eligibility determinations related to the Exchange, MAGI Medi-Cal and AIM.

### **AB 889**

**Author: Frazier**

**Topic: Health Care Coverage: Prescription Drugs**

**Status: Senate Appropriations**

This bill would impose specified requirements on health plans that restrict medications pursuant to step therapy or fail first protocol.

### **AB 1174**

**Author: Bocanegra**

**Topic: Virtual Dental Home**

**Status: Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development**

Allows Registered Dental Hygienists, RDHAPs, and RDAEFs to decide which X-rays to take when examining patients. Allows Registered Dental Hygienists, RDHAPs, and RDAEFs to place interim therapeutic restorations, and requires Medi-Cal to reimburse dentists who provide care using store-and-forward telehealth.

### **AB 1868**

**Author: Gomez**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: optional benefits: podiatric medicine.**

**Status: Appropriations Suspense File**

This bill would cover medical and surgical services provided by a doctor of podiatric medicine in the Medi-Cal program.

### **AB 1877**

**Author: Cooley**

**Location: Assembly Health**

**Topic: California Vision Care Access Council**

This bill would establish the California Vision Care Access Council - an Exchange marketplace for vision coverage plans governed by a 5-member Board. The Council would work with the Exchange to set up a direct link between the Web site of the Exchange and the Web site of the Council to connect consumers of the Exchange to the vision marketplace.

### **AB 2325**

**Author: John A Perez**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: CommuniCal.**

**Status: Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security**

This bill would require DHCS to establish the Medi-Cal Patient-Centered Communication program (CommuniCal), to be administered by a 3rd-party administrator, to, commencing July 1, 2015, provide and reimburse for medical interpretation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient (LEP).

## **SB 1276**

**Author: Hernandez**

**Topic: Health care: fair billing policies**

**Location: Senate Health**

This bill would require hospitals to collect no more than 5% of a billed patients monthly income if that patient is below 350% FPL. This bill would allow consumers with high out of pocket costs to qualify for discount billing if their health plan or insurer negotiates a high bill on their behalf. This bill would allow discount billing applications and all other subsidized coverage program applications to be processed simultaneously.

## Children

### **AB 357**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Children's Health Advisory Board**

**Status: Senate Health**

Creates the Children's Health Advisory Board (CHAB) by transferring the Healthy Families Advisory Panel (HFAP) from the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Appointed by the Governor, the Assembly Speaker and the Senate Committee on rules, board members would be tasked with developing a vision for children's health in California, making recommendations on improving child health systems, and setting goals and standards for children's health coverage. It provides a potential pathway for future improvements in children's health services and programs in California.

### **AB 1310**

**Author: Brown**

**Topic: Pediatric Subacute Care**

**Status: Senate**

This bill would expand the definition of pediatric subacute services to include the health care services needed by a person under 21 years of age who requires treatment for one or more active complex medical conditions or requires the administration of one or more technically complex treatments. There are 362 pediatric subacute care beds in the state and those beds are essentially fully utilized.

### **AB 1955**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: School personnel – nurses, therapists and librarians**

**Status: Assembly Health Committee 4-29-14**

Establishes the Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds Demonstration Project to increase the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grant amounts for participating schoolsites that employ one full-time school nurse, one full-time mental health professional, and ensure that the schoolsites' libraries are open one hour before, and three hours after, the regular school day.

### **AB 2212**

**Author: Gray**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).**

**Status:** Assembly Health

This bill would require DHCS to permit county mental health plans to contract with local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide services for Medi-Cal eligible pupils under EPSDT. The bill would also require the department to permit a county mental health plan to obtain FFP on behalf of nonpublic agencies that contract with an LEA to provide EPSDT services if the LEA does not have a contract with the county mental health plan. The bill would also require the department to examine methodologies for increasing LEA participation in the Medi-Cal program so that schools can meet the educationally related health care needs of their pupils.

**SB 909**

**Author:** Pavley

**Topic:** Screening for children in custody

**Status:** Senate Judiciary Committee

Permits a social worker to authorize an initial medical, dental, and mental health screening of a child in temporary custody, without parental consent or a court order. Adds mental health treatment to the medical and dental care that may be authorized for a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court, who is in temporary custody, or for whom a dependency petition has been filed.

**SB 901**

**Author:** Pavley

**Topic:** Domestic Violence: Restraining orders

**Status:** Senate Appropriations 4-28-14

For the purposes of these provisions, domestic violence includes abuse committed against an adult or a minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship. The violation of a restraining order issued pursuant to these provisions is a crime.

This bill would, for the purposes of these provisions, expand the definition of domestic violence to include abuse perpetrated against a child of a party to the domestic violence proceedings or a child who is the subject of an action under the Uniform Parentage Act, as specified, or against any other person related to the defendant by consanguinity or affinity within the 2nd degree.

## Eligibility and Enrollment

**AB 899**

**Author:** Mitchell

**Topic:** Maximum Family Grant – CalWORKs eligibility

**Status:** Senate Appropriations April 28

Repeals the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule in CalWORKs in order to provide for the basic needs of a newborn. The bill would also prohibit the department from conditioning an applicant's or recipient's eligibility for aid on the applicant's or recipient's disclosure of information regarding rape, incest, or contraception, as specified, or the applicant's or recipient's use of contraception.

## **SB 1002**

**Author: De León**

**Topic: Medi-Cal: redetermination.**

**Location: Senate Appropriations**

This bill would align Medi-Cal redetermination with the CalFresh certification period when a CalFresh application or recertification application is submitted.

## **SB 1005**

**Author: Lara**

**Topic: [Health For All](#)**

**Status: Senate**

SB 1005 would expand access to health care coverage for all Californians, regardless of immigration status, by authorizing enrollment in the Medi-Cal program, or in insurance offered through a separate new health benefit exchange, to individuals who would otherwise qualify for enrollment in those programs but are denied based on their immigration status.

## Maternal and Child Health

### **AB 1516**

**Author: Gonzalez**

**Topic: Diapers**

**Status: Assembly**

This bill would require that an additional young child special needs supplement be paid in CalWORKs in the amount of \$80 per month to a child who is under 3 years of age in an aided household, and that this amount be adjusted annually to reflect charges in the cost of living.

### **AB 1559**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Newborn Screening**

**Status: Assembly Suspense File.**

This bill would require the department to expand statewide screening of newborns to include screening for adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD). ALD is a rare disease that causes damage to the myelin sheath, an insulating membrane that surrounds nerve cells in the brain. The most severe symptoms primarily affect males, and prevalence is estimated at 1 in 17,000 males.

### **AB 2111**

**Author: Amiano**

**Topic: Child Development Services: Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Cal-SAFE**

**Status: Assembly**

This bill would revise and recast the Cal-SAFE program. The bill would, among other things, specify that a Cal-SAFE program may provide for any or all of the supportive services for teen parents-as specified, and an-early learning and educational support program for the-voluntarily enrolled-children of the teen parents. The bill would authorize a school district, charter school, or county superintendent of schools to participate in a Cal-Safe program and would authorize the above entities to use funds appropriated

according to the local control funding formula for purposes of the Cal-SAFE program. The bill would require the entities, if operating an early learning and educational support program for the children of teen parents participating in the Cal-SAFE program, to adhere to certain health, safety, and quality requirements, including that each child have a developmental profile.

## Mental Health Provider Workforce

## Nutrition

### **AB 2115**

**Author: Bradford**

**Topic: CalFresh: School Meals**

**Status: Assembly**

Existing law requires a county welfare department to compile a list of emergency food providers and make that list available upon request. This bill would additionally require a county human services agency to compile a list of child feeding and summer feeding programs. The bill would also require a county human services agency to provide an applicant household that has children with information about how to enroll the children in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs while the CalFresh application is pending and to inform the household that if the household is certified for CalFresh, all children in the household are directly certified for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs without further application.

### **AB 2287**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Gluten free food in schools**

**Status: Assembly Education**

Permits, but does not require, a school district or county superintendent of schools to include, in the free or reduced price meal application packet or notification of eligibility for the free and reduced price meal program, information on the availability of gluten-free meals for specified students.

### **AB 2385**

**Author: Ting**

**Topic: Market Match Program**

**Status: Assembly Education**

This bill would set up a California Market Match fund to provide money to match anticipated federal funds, coming from this last Farm Bill, which are earmarked for farmers market incentive programs.

## Public Health

### **AB 2130**

**Author: Pan**

**Topic: Retail Food Safety**

**Status: Urgency measure, referred to committee on Appropriations**

This bill repeals a prohibition on bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food by food employees and replaces it with prior law, which required food employees to minimize bare hand contact. Specifically, this bill: 1) Requires food employees to minimize bare hand and arm contact with nonprepackaged food that is in a ready-to-eat form.2) Requires food employees to use utensils, including scoops, forks, tongs, paper wrappers, gloves, or other implements, to assemble ready-to-eat food or to place ready-to-eat food on tableware or in other containers. Allows food employees to handle ready-to-eat food without the use of utensils if hands are cleaned in accordance with current hand washing requirements.

## Reproductive Health

### **SB 1053**

**Author:** Mitchell

**Topic:** [The Contraceptive Coverage Equity Act](#),

**Status:**

SB 1053 seeks to improve access to the full range of FDA approved methods of contraception for all individuals in California with health insurance by building on current state and federal law to: Require insurance coverage of all FDA approved methods, voluntary sterilization and comprehensive contraceptive counseling without restrictions or cost-sharing and create equity in the contraceptive coverage mandate by eliminating co-pays for birth control for men.