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## California bills and policy to watch for!!

[White house announcement of president's budget](#) includes continuous Medicaid (and CHIP) coverage for children to age 0-6. This is a tremendous boost for our advocacy in CA!

- creates a new state option for 0-6, so no waiver needed.
- also has option for 36-months of Continuous Eligibility for all kids to age 18; California has not addressed this – stay tuned!
- prohibits enrollment fees and premiums under CHIP-- that would be the higher income kids in Medi-Cal, the C-CHIP kids, pregnant individuals in MCAP, and the MCAIPs. So CA could not go back to the days before Children Now-led advocacy resulted in \$0 premiums.

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- [SB 294](#), legislation to bolster oversight of commercial health plans by requiring **automatic review of youth mental health care denials**.
  - In response to widespread interest in this bill, we are forming a coalition to provide updates, gather input and stories, and strengthen our opposition rebuttal. We are expecting a tough fight with plans over this bill and could use as much support as we can get. **If you are interested in receiving more specific SB 294 updates or tuning into our April call, please fill out this quick [coalition form](#).**
  - We are also looking for human impact stories of the egregious denials youth and families face while trying to seek mental health care. If you know anyone who has struggled to get mental health care for their child through commercial/employer-sponsored care, please reach out or fill out this [story form](#).

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[AB 2956 \(Boerner\)](#) co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law & Poverty, The Children's Partnership, and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California. The bill would:

1. **Allow people to keep their Medi-Cal coverage for a full 12 months**, regardless of changes in their income.
2. Direct California to seek federal approval, when necessary, to make permanent the federal Medi-Cal flexibilities to reduce and remedy procedural terminations, simplify income verification requirements, increase automatic Medi-Cal renewals, and improve program outreach and customer.

AB 2956 will be heard in the **Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. Please submit your [letters of support](#) no later than Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at noon.**

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[AB 2297 \(Friedman\)](#), which would modernize the Hospital Fair Pricing Act **to provide important medical debt protections**, will be heard on Tuesday, April 2, so requesting letters of support by **NOON on Wednesday, 3/27**.

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[AB 2319 \(Wilson, Weber\)](#) co-sponsored by Attorney General Rob Bonta, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, Reproductive Freedom for All California and California Nurse-Midwives Association. AB 2319 aims to reduce the disproportionate maternal mortality rate of Black women and other persons of color by ensuring successful implementation of the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act of 2019 (Act). The Act required implicit bias training for all health professionals who provide care during a patient's pregnancy, childbirth, and immediate postpartum period. The bill would do the following:

1. Add an enforcement mechanism to the Act and establish civil penalties for noncompliance.
2. Provide clarity on which facilities are mandated to administer anti-bias trainings and which employees need to be trained.
3. Establish firm deadlines by which trainings must be completed to better guide compliance.
4. Require compliance data to be posted online so the public is made aware of which facilities have provided anti-bias trainings and which have not.
5. Empower CDPH to issue guidance on model trainings to ensure these trainings are effective at reducing implicit bias.

AB 2319 will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and we ask that you send in your letters of support by noon March 27th.

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**This Friday (3/22) at 10 am, the Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California will be publicly launching their campaign in support of [SB 1137](#) which will be on the ballot this November.** This law prohibits new toxic oil and gas drilling within 3,200 feet of homes, schools, healthcare facilities, day care centers, parks, and businesses.

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[SB 1193 \(Menjivar\)](#) co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law & Poverty, Santa Clara County, the Coalition for Clean Air, and the CA League of United Latin American Citizens. SB 1193 aligns state law with [USEPA's determination](#) that leaded airplane fuels endanger the lives and safety of children and public health. The bill would:

1. Phase out the sale of harmful leaded airplane fuel (known as avgas) that endangers public health and welfare, particularly the long-term health of children.
  2. Improve mitigation measures to minimize lead exposure for airport employees and the public.
- SB 1193 will be heard in the **Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Please submit your letters of support no later than Wednesday, April 3, 2024, by noon.**

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EWG and Consumer Reports are cosponsoring [AB 2316 \(Gabriel\)](#), which will [prevent public schools from serving food \(meals/snacks\) that contain one of six synthetic food dyes](#) [CalEPA found to be linked to behavioral and learning problems in some children](#), and Titanium Dioxide, which is banned in the EU due to its links to genotoxicity, immunotoxicity, and inflammation. Please join in our support of AB 2316, a first-in-the-nation proposal to protect our kids from harmful synthetic food dyes and ingredients while they learn. A coalition sign-on letter can be found [here](#). Please sign on by COB Monday, March 25th, in order to be included in the letter.

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[the Latine and Indigenous Disparities Reduction Act - now Senate Bill 1016 \(Gonzalez\)](#). [LCHC](#), [CBDIO](#), [MICOP](#), and [CIELO](#) are co-sponsors of SB 1016 which

uncovers health and related disparities for Latine and Indigenous Mesoamericans in California by collecting and disaggregating more detailed data for our communities. Below please find fact sheets in English and Spanish and a letter of support template with instructions on how to submit.

- SB 1016 Community Fact Sheet - [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- [SB 1016 Letter of Support Template](#) - see template for submission instructions to the [CA Legislative Position Letter Portal](#) (please submit to **both** Senate Human Services and Senate Health Committees)

The **deadline** to submit a letter is on **March 26 at noon.**

**AB 2527 Bauer-Kahan Incarceration: pregnant persons.** Assembly Public Safety This bill would require incarcerated pregnant persons to be provided with free and clean bottled water and daily high-quality and high caloric nutritional meals, as specified. The bill would also prohibit incarcerated pregnant persons from being placed in solitary confinement or restrictive housing units during their pregnancy or for 12 weeks postpartum

**SB 953 Menjivar Medi-Cal: menstrual products.** Senate Health This bill would add menstrual products to the schedule of covered Medi-Cal benefits.