

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income and Racially Marginalized Consumers as of October 9, 2024

Following is a summary of bills in the Legislature that affect the health of low-income and racially marginalized Californians. The Governor had until September 30 to sign or veto bills. Vetoed bills have link to the Governor's veto message. Signed bills are denoted as "chaptered", meaning they will become law on January 1, 2025 unless otherwise noted.

Black Birthing Justice

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2319	Wilson	California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.	CHAPTERED	As amended on August 15, 2024, this bill would: (1) specify the types of healthcare providers and health facility employees who must participate in implicit bias training, (2) require initial basic training to be completed by June 1, 2025, for current health care providers and health facility employees, and within six months of their start date for new employees, (3) require training to be provided during paid time, (4) require facilities subject to the provisions of the Act, commencing in 2026, to provide the Attorney General with proof of compliance by February 1 of each year, (5) provides for civil penalties for failure to submit proof of compliance to the AG, including for the "systemic failure" of providers to complete training, as defined, (6) authorize the Attorney General to post compliance data online so the public is made aware of which facilities have provided anti-bias training and which have not, and (7) requires that Attorney General be awarded all attorney's fees and costs in any civil action in which a court imposes any of those civil penalties	Co-Sponsor
AB 2527	Bauer-Kahan	Incarceration: pregnant persons.	CHAPTERED	As amended on 8/21/24, this bill would require incarcerated pregnant persons in state prison 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 in the state prison from being placed in solitary confinement or restrictive housing units during their pregnancy if known to be pregnant, or for 12 weeks postpartum, as specified.	Support

Medi-Cal

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2339	Aguiar-Curry	Medi-Cal: telehealth.	Veto message	This bill would expand access to telehealth services by allowing the use of asynchronous telehealth to establish a new patient relationship when related to sensitive services or when requested by the patient.	

AB 2340	Bonta	Medi-Cal: EPSDT services: informational materials.	CHAPTERED	This bill would codify requirements to inform children and families about the comprehensive coverage available through the Medi-Cal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.	Support
AB 2446	Ortega	Medi-Cal: diapers.	Veto message	Establishes diapers as a covered Medi-Cal benefit for a child greater than 3 years of age who has been diagnosed with a condition that contributes to incontinence and for an individual under 21 years of age if necessary to correct or ameliorate a condition pursuant to certain federal standards. The bill would limit the provided diapers to an appropriate supply based on the diagnosed condition and the age of the Medi-Cal beneficiary.	Support
AB 3156	Patterson, Joe	Medi-Cal managed care plans: enrollees with other health care coverage.	Veto message	This bill would help members who use Medi-Cal as a payer of last resort to maintain their providers when they transition from fee-for-service to managed care, including limiting administrative and contracting requirements for providers when billing Medi-Cal plans and stating intent that department provide enrollee educational materials upon request.	
SB 1112	Menjivar	Childcare: alternative payment programs.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require that the administrative costs reimbursement rate for alternative payment programs include costs associated with disseminating information on developmental screenings.	
SB 1289	Roth	Medi-Cal: call centers: standards and data.	CHAPTERED	This bill would provide greater transparency of county Medi-Cal call centers by requiring the Department to collect and publicly report county call center metrics.	Co-Sponsor
SB 1423	Dahle	Medi-Cal: Rural Hospital Technical Advisory Group.	Veto message	This bill would require the department to convene a Rural Hospital Technical Advisory Group to discuss and provide recommendations on Medi-Cal reimbursement and other financial viability of small, rural, or critical access hospitals issues.	
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2250	Weber	Social determinants of health: screening and outreach.	Veto message	As amended on 8/27/24, this bill would require health plans to include coverage for screenings for social determinants of health, as defined. The bill would require providers to use standardized codes when documenting patient responses to questions asked in these screenings and to use existing tools or protocols to conduct the screenings. The bill would also require a health care service plan or health insurer to provide physicians who provide primary care services with adequate access to peer support specialists, lay health workers, social workers, or community health workers in counties where the plan or insurer has enrollees or insureds, as specified.	Support

AB 2442	Zbur	Healing arts: expedited licensure process: gender-affirming health care and gender-affirming mental health care.	Veto message	As amended 4/10/2024, this bill would require the CA Medical Board, CA Osteopathic Medical Board, Board of Registered Nursing, and Physician Assistant Board to expedite the licensure process for an applicant who demonstrates that they intend to provide gender-affirming health care and gender-affirming mental health care. These provisions would be repealed January 1, 2029.	
AB 3161	Bonta	Health facilities: patient safety and antidiscrimination.	CHAPTERED	Current law requires a health facility to develop, implement, and comply with a patient safety plan to improve the health and safety of patients and to reduce preventable patient safety events. The patient safety plan requires specified elements, including, but not limited to, a reporting system for patient safety events that allows anyone involved to make a report of a patient safety event to the health facility, and a process for a team of facility staff to conduct analyses related to root causes of patient safety events. As amended 8/23/24, this bill would require the reporting system to include anonymous reporting options. The bill would also require an analysis of patient safety events by specified sociodemographic factors to identify disparities. The bill would require that the safety plan include a process for addressing racism and discrimination and its impacts on patient health and safety, including monitoring sociodemographic disparities in patient safety events, developing interventions to remedy known disparities, and encouraging facility staff to report suspected instances of racism and discrimination.	Support
SB 957	Wiener	Data collection: sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status.	CHAPTERED	The bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to collect sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics/intersex status (SOGISC) data from third-party entities, including local health jurisdictions, on any forms or electronic data systems unless prohibited by federal or state law. The bill will also require CDPH to provide an annual report to the public and the Legislature on its efforts to collect, analyze, and report SOGISC data.	Support
SB 1016	Gonzalez	Latino and Indigenous Disparities Reduction Act.	CHAPTERED	As amended 8/19/2024, this bill would require CDPH, on or after January 1, 2028, in the course of collecting demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of California residents for any report that includes rates for major diseases and leading causes of death, as specified, to use separate collection categories and tabulations for Hispanic or Latino groups using standardized federal race and ethnicity categories from the federal Office of Management and Budget's "Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," as specified.	Support
SB 1213	Atkins	Health care programs: cancer.	Veto message	This bill raises the income limit for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, which provides breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment, from 200% to 250% of FPL.	Support

Health Coverage					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2258	Zbur	Health care coverage: cost sharing.	CHAPTERED	As amended 6/24/24, this bill would prohibit a group or individual non-grandfathered health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a cost-sharing requirement for items or services that are integral to the provision of specified preventive care services and screenings. The bill would require coverage of items and services for preventive care services and screenings, including home test kits for sexually transmitted diseases and specified cancer screenings.	Support
AB 2843	Petrie-Norris	Health care coverage: rape and sexual assault.	CHAPTERED	As amended 8/23/24, this bill would require a health care service plan or health insurance policy that is issued, amended, renewed, or delivered on or after July 1, 2025, to provide coverage without cost sharing for emergency room medical care and follow-up health care treatment for an enrollee or insured who is treated following a rape or sexual assault for the first 9 months after the enrollee initiates treatment. The bill would prohibit a health care service plan or health insurer from requiring, as a condition of providing coverage, (1) an enrollee or insured to file a police report, (2) charges to be brought against an assailant, (3) or an assailant to be convicted of rape or sexual assault.	Support
AB 3245	Patterson, Joe	Coverage for colorectal cancer screening.	<u>Veto message</u>	Current law provides for coverage without cost sharing for a colorectal cancer screening test and for a colorectal cancer screening examination in specified circumstances, assigned either a grade of A or a grade of B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force. As amended 6/10/24, this bill would additionally require coverage if the test or screening examination is assigned either a grade of A or a grade of B, or equivalent, in accordance with the most current recommendations established by another accredited or certified guideline agency approved by the California Health and Human Services Agency.	
SB 1120	Becker	Health care coverage: utilization review.	CHAPTERED	As amended 8/23/24, this bill would require a health care service plan or disability insurer, including a specialized health care service plan or specialized health insurer, that uses an artificial intelligence, algorithm, or other software tool for the purpose of utilization review or utilization management functions, or that contracts with or otherwise works through an entity that uses that type of tool, to ensure compliance with specified requirements, including that the artificial intelligence, algorithm, or other software tool bases its determination on specified information and is fairly and equitably applied, as specified.	
SB 1384	Dodd	Powered wheelchairs: repair.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require an original equipment manufacturer of a powered wheelchair to provide documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools used to inspect, diagnose, maintain, and repair the wheelchair to an owner or an independent repair provider to provide service on the equipment or specified parts in the state, on fair and reasonable terms and costs.	

Maternity Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1895	Weber	Public health: maternity ward closures.	Veto message	As amended 8/23/2024, this bill would require an acute care hospital that operates a perinatal unit and expects challenges in the next 6 months that may result in a reduction or loss of perinatal services, to report specified information to the Department of Health Care Access, including the number of medical staff and employees working in the perinatal unit and the hospital's prior performance on financial metrics. The bill would also require HCAI, in conjunction with the State Department of Public Health and State Department of Health Care Services to conduct a community impact assessment to identify the 3 closest hospitals operating a perinatal unit.	
SB 1300	Cortese	Health facility closure: public notice: inpatient psychiatric and perinatal services.	CHAPTERED	Current law requires a health facility to provide 90 days of public notice of the proposed closure or elimination of a supplemental service of inpatient psychiatric service or maternity service , and 120 days of public notice of the proposed closure or elimination of an acute psychiatric hospital. As amended 8/20/24, this bill would change the notice period required before proposed closure or elimination of the supplemental service of inpatient psychiatric service or perinatal services from 90 days to 120 days.	Support
Medical Debt					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2297	Friedman	Hospital and Emergency Physician Fair Pricing Policies.	CHAPTERED	This bill would modernize the Hospital Fair Pricing Act by prohibiting the use of home liens to collect unpaid medical bills from financially eligible patients, clarifying hospitals must review financial assistance eligibility at any time, and other important protections.	Co-Sponsor
SB 1061	Limón	Consumer debt: medical debt.	CHAPTERED	This bill would prohibit consumer credit report or an or an investigative consumer report to contain information about medical debt.	Support
Prescription Drugs					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1902	Alanis	Prescription drug labels: accessibility.	CHAPTERED	This bill would require pharmacies to provide no-cost accessible prescription labels for patients upon request.	Support
Reparations					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1975	Bonta	Medi-Cal: medically supportive food and nutrition interventions.	Veto message	Make medically supportive food and nutrition interventions, when deemed medically necessary by healthcare providers, a permanent part of Medi-Cal benefits in California. The bill would also establish a medically supportive food and nutrition benefit stakeholder group to advise DHCS on items, such as the scope of the benefit and other related matters.	Support

Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1470	Quirk-Silva	Medi-Cal: behavioral health services: documentation standards.	Veto message	This bill declares legislative intent to require DHCS to reform documentation requirements for behavioral health billing requirements under the Medi-Cal program.	
AB 1810	Bryan	Incarcerated persons: menstrual products.	CHAPTERED	This bill would make menstrual products more accessible to incarcerated individuals through ready access, rather than requiring request, of menstrual products.	Support
AB 2300	Wilson	Medical devices: Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP).	CHAPTERED	This bill would phase out the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of IV solution bags and tubing made with intentionally added Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). The bill would also prohibit a person or entity from replacing DEHP for revised or new products with other specified ortho-phthalates.	Support
AB 2435	Maienschein	California Health Benefit Exchange.	CHAPTERED	This bill would extend Covered California's authority to implement emergency rulemaking packages until January 1, 2030 (from 2025).	
SB 1193	Menjivar	Airports: leaded aviation gasoline.	CHAPTERED	This bill would ban the sale and distribution of leaded aviation fuel beginning in 2031.	Co-Sponsor
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