

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 4, 2019

| State Issues   |  |
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| <p>Bill Introduction Deadline</p>                    | <p>With the new bill introduction deadline just two weeks away (February 22), several bills of interest have been introduced and there is much speculation about what issues may soon be introduced in legislation. The health care ministry will see bills that address new community benefits plan reporting, expansion of Medi-Cal to adults regardless of immigration status, strengthening the various aspects of the Affordable Care Act in California, surprise/balance billing, additional oversight on hospital transactions by the Attorney General, access to affordable housing, addressing aspects of homelessness and other important determinants of health. As the deadline nears, the Alliance will report on its advocacy agenda for 2019.</p>   |
| <p>Health Budget Subcommittees Hearing Schedules</p> | <p>The Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3, which cover health and human services issues, have released their preliminary hearing schedules. See the links below for the hearings that will explore the Governor’s January Budget proposals that relate to the variety of health issues. Note that votes will NOT be taken at these hearings. A new round of hearings will take place after the May Revise is released.</p> <p>Also included are some of the more interesting health care informational hearings that are set for the coming weeks, as well as a link so you can watch the Governor’s State of the State address set for next Tuesday.</p> <p><b><i>Budget Subcommittee Schedules</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 schedule of hearings linked <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 schedule of hearings linked <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Governor’s State of the State Address   Tuesday, February 12   11:00am</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assembly Chambers: <a href="http://www.calchannel.com">www.calchannel.com</a></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Health-Related Informational Hearings   Thursday, February 14</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Joint Assembly Health, Senate Health, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3: Health Insurance Affordability Assistance for Californians: Options &amp; Funding: 1:30pm, Capitol Room 4202</li> <li>▪ Senate Budget and Fiscal Review: Informational Hearing on Prescription Drug Affordability and Expanding Medi-Cal Coverage: 9:30am, Capitol Room 4203.</li> </ul> |

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New Task Force  
Outlines the Way  
Forward for  
California's Health  
Care Workforce

The California Future Health Workforce Commission was created in 2017 by a group of the state's leading health philanthropies to address the looming health care workforce crisis – and to create a comprehensive action plan for building the health workforce California will need by 2030.

The Taskforce acknowledged that California's health system is facing a crisis, which at its core is the simple fact that California does not have enough of the right types of health workers in the right places to meet the needs of its growing, aging, and increasingly diverse population. The Commission focused on the need to increase the diversity of the state's health workforce, enable the workforce to better address health disparities, and incorporate new and emerging technologies.

The Commission was co-chaired by Lloyd Dean, president and CEO of Dignity Health, and was noted as one of the state's largest health systems and health employers; and Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California (UC), which operates the largest health sciences education and training system in the nation and is a major health provider. The 24 commissioners included prominent health, policy, workforce development, and education leaders in the state. They developed three key strategies, with more than two dozen specific recommendations. The report provides a real roadmap for Legislators and other decisionmakers, by including timelines associated with each recommendation and a preliminary assessment of the cost to implement each item.

The three overall strategies include: 1) Increase opportunity for all Californians to advance in the health professions; 2) Align and expand education and training to prepare health workers to meet California's health needs; and 3) Strengthen the capacity, effectiveness, well-being, and retention of the health workforce.

The Task Force hopes that Strategy 1 will result in an expanded, more qualified, and diverse pool of candidates from California communities with greater motivation, support, incentives, and opportunity to successfully pursue careers in primary care, behavioral health, and care for older adults and service in underserved communities. Strategy 2 is expected to ensure that health professions training programs in California provide access to and graduate enough qualified, diverse candidates with the skills and experience to meet health and workforce needs in all communities. Strategy 3 is aimed at providing incentives, training, tools, and innovations to increase the capacity and optimize the roles of the current and future health workforce within emerging health models.

Specific recommendations include: expanding the scope of nurse practitioners to "help fill in the gaps in primary care;" develop a psychiatric nurse practitioner program; work to eliminate provider burnout; expand medical school enrollment at public institutions; increase mental health training for primary care providers; and expand the number of residency position in the state.

You can access the full report [here](#).

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| <p>LAO Report on Governor's Individual Market Coverage Proposals</p> | <p>The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its report assessing Governor Newsom's proposals to make individual market coverage more affordable to address the broad concerns raised about health care costs and access, and specific concerns about affordability of the individual market coverage.</p> <p>The LAO assesses the Governor's proposal to 1) create a state requirement that most Californians purchase health insurance coverage ("individual mandate") or pay a financial penalty; and 2) use the revenues from this penalty to fund additional health insurance subsidies for households purchasing coverage through Covered California. The LAO finds that the individual mandate "may be one of the state's most effective policy options to increase enrollment in the individual market and reduce the cost of individual market coverage, particularly for households that currently do not receive federal subsidies."</p> <p>The report does warn that should the Legislature wish to create a state individual mandate along with some form of insurance subsidies, that funding subsidies from the individual mandate penalty revenues could be problematic. "The goal of the individual mandate as a deterrent against forgoing insurance coverage is at odds with the goal of raising revenue for insurance subsidies. To address this issue, the Legislature should consider using whatever penalty revenues are generated to simply offset – at least partially – the cost of subsidies, with other state funds covering any difference."</p> <p>The "The 2019-20 Budget: The Governor's Individual Health Insurance Market Affordability Proposals" can be found at: <a href="https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2019/3927/Individual-Market-Affordability-020719.pdf">https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2019/3927/Individual-Market-Affordability-020719.pdf</a></p> |
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