

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of April 5, 2021

State Issues

Status of Key Legislation

This week, the Legislature returned from its Spring Recess, with several key health care bills seeing action.

- We were informed that **AB 705 (Kamlager)** would not be granted a hearing in Assembly Health. Opposed by the Alliance, but strongly supported by the California Medical Association, this bill would have given physicians sweeping authority over hospital decision making that is contrary to fundamental principles of hospital operations. As a reminder, the author just won a special election and is now a State Senator. We remain vigilant, as there are no rules that would preclude Senator Kamlager from amending this language into a bill in the Senate for action later this year.
- **SB 379 (Weiner)** was set for hearing this week and **will be heard in Senate Health Committee on April 21**. This bill would preclude the University of California from contracting with any religiously affiliated health care provider. The Alliance has been meeting with all members of the Committee in preparation for the hearing and will meet with Senator Weiner next week. We have been focusing on the negative impact this bill would have on valuable partnerships between UC Health and religiously affiliated health care providers and the loss in access to health care should this bill pass. We have also been setting the record straight on numerous inaccuracies that continue to be stated about the quality and breadth of care provided in Catholic health care facilities.
- Dr. Jim Wood, chair of the Assembly Health Committee, also decided to not move one of his three prominent bills – **AB 1132 regarding hospital consolidation**. This now becomes a 2-year bill. This bill was based on SB 977 (Monning) from last session, that the Alliance along with others in the health care community opposed and defeated. Both bills would have restricted the ability of health care organizations from partnering to provide health care. We will need to continue to work with Dr. Wood and his office on his concerns around consolidation, while ensuring hospitals can continue to partner to provide more efficient, effective, and patient-centered care.
- Two of Dr. Wood’s other bills saw action this week in the Assembly Health Committee. **AB 1130 regarding Health Care Affordability** and **AB 1131 creating a single repository for all clinical health care data**, both passed out of the Committee. The California Hospital Association and others in the health care provider arena have strong concerns with both of these bills as they are currently written. Both bills passed out of Committee – AB 1130 on a vote of 12-0, with 3 not voting, and AB 1131 on a vote of 13-1, with 1 not voting.

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| Status of Key Legislation <i>(continued)</i> | <p>AB 1130 would create a Commission that would scrutinize health care spending and be permitted to set provider rates of pay if the State fails to keep health care spending under a specific target set by this Commission. There are concerns that a politically-appointed body would be able to arbitrarily decide what provider rates should be.</p> <p>AB 1131 would require health care providers to submit all patient clinical data into a single statewide repository with the hopes that it would improve health care communication. There are great concerns with the State's ability to hold and maintain sensitive patient data and there are questions about the need for such a repository. Alternatives have been offered, including exploring current barriers to sharing health care data in real time and the lack of data sharing for public health data.</p> |
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Alliance of Catholic Health Care Legislative Summary and Status 4/9/2021

Access

- [AB 4](#) **(Arambula D) Medi-Cal: eligibility.**
Location: 1/11/2021-A. HEALTH
Calendar: 4/13/2021 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Assembly Chamber ASSEMBLY HEALTH, WOOD, Chair
Summary: Would, effective January 1, 2022, extend eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal benefits to anyone regardless of age, and who is otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status, pursuant to an eligibility and enrollment plan. The bill would delete the specified provisions regarding individuals who are under 25 years of age or 65 years of age or older and delaying implementation until the director makes the determination described above. The bill would require the eligibility and enrollment plan to ensure that an individual maintains continuity of care with respect to their primary care provider, as prescribed, would provide that an individual is not limited in their ability to select a different health care provider or Medi-Cal managed care health plan, and would require the department to provide monthly updates to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on the status of the implementation of these provisions
Position
Support
- [AB 32](#) **(Aguiar-Curry D) Telehealth.**
Location: 1/11/2021-A. HEALTH
Summary: Current law requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, to specify that coverage is provided for health care services appropriately delivered through telehealth on the same basis and to the same extent as in-person diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. Current law exempts Medi-Cal managed care plans that contract with the State Department of Health Care Services under the Medi-Cal program from these provisions, and generally exempts county organized health systems that provide services under the Medi-Cal program from Knox-Keene. This bill would delete the above-described references to contracts issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, would require these provisions to apply to the plan or insurer's contracted entity, as specified, and would delete the exemption for Medi-Cal managed care plans. The bill would subject county organized health systems, and their subcontractors, that provide services under the Medi-Cal program to the above-described Knox-Keene requirements relative to telehealth.
Position
Support
- [AB 369](#) **(Kamlager D) Medi-Cal services: persons experiencing homelessness.**
Location: 2/12/2021-A. HEALTH
Summary: Would, until January 1, 2026, prohibit the Director of the State Department of Health Care Services from imposing prior authorization or other utilization controls on an item, service, or immunization that is intended to test for, prevent, treat, or mitigate COVID-19.
Position
Watch
- [AB 875](#) **(Wood D) Medi-Cal: covered benefits.**
Location: 2/25/2021-A. HEALTH
Summary: Current law authorizes the State Department of Health Care Services to enter into various types of contracts for the provision of services to beneficiaries, including contracts with a Medi-Cal managed care plan. Current law requires the department to pay capitation rates to health plans participating in the Medi-Cal managed care program using actuarial methods, and authorizes the department to establish health-plan- and county-specific rates, as specified. Current law requires the department to utilize health-plan- and county-specific rates for specified Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts, and requires those developed rates to include identified specified information, such as health-plan-specific encounter and claims data. Current federal law authorizes specified managed care entities that participate in a state's Medicaid program to cover, for enrollees, services or settings that are in lieu of services and settings otherwise covered under a state plan. This bill would require those mandatorily developed health-plan- and county-specific rates for specified Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts to include in lieu of services and settings provided by the Medi-Cal managed care plan.
Position
Watch
- [SB 56](#) **(Durazo D) Medi-Cal: eligibility.**

Location: 3/22/2021-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Current law provides that Medi-Cal benefits for individuals who are 65 years of age or older, and who do not have satisfactory immigration statuses or are unable to establish satisfactory immigration statuses, will be prioritized in the Budget Act for the upcoming fiscal year if the Department of Finance projects a positive ending balance in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the ensuing 3 fiscal years that exceeds the cost of providing those individuals full scope Medi-Cal benefits. This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, and effective July 1, 2022, extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are 65 years of age or older, and who are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status.

Position

Support

[SB 256](#) (Pan D) Medi-Cal: covered benefits.

Location: 2/3/2021-S. HEALTH

Summary: Current federal law authorizes specified managed care entities that participate in a state's Medicaid program to cover, for enrollees, services or settings that are in lieu of services and settings otherwise covered under a state plan. This bill would require those mandatorily developed health-plan- and county-specific rates for specified Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts to include in lieu of services and settings provided by the Medi-Cal managed care plan. The bill would require each Medi-Cal managed care plan to disclose the availability of in lieu of services on its internet website and its beneficiary handbook, and to disclose to the department specified information on in lieu of services that are plan specific, including the number of people receiving those services. The bill would require the department to publish that information on its internet website.

Position

Watch

Catholic Identity

[AB 705](#) (Kamlager D) Health care: facilities: medical privileges.

Location: 2/25/2021-A. HEALTH

Summary: Would prohibit a health facility from requiring a physician or surgeon, as a condition of obtaining or maintaining clinical privileges, to agree to comply with criteria, rules, regulations, or other policies or procedures that are not knowingly and explicitly ratified, issued, or promulgated by the medical staff, that directly or indirectly prohibit, limit, or restrict the ability of the physician or surgeon to provide a particular medical treatment or service that falls within the scope of their privileges, or from requiring a physician or surgeon to obtain permission from a nonphysician or nonsurgeon to perform a particular medical treatment or service for which consent has been obtained from the patient or the patient's representative, except as provided. The bill would prohibit a health facility from limiting or otherwise exercising control over the independent professional judgment of a physician or surgeon concerning the practice of medicine or the diagnosis or treatment of disease, if the physician or surgeon, exercising their independent professional judgment, determines that a particular medical service or treatment is medically appropriate, unless specified circumstances apply.

Position

Oppose

[SB 379](#) (Wiener D) University of California: contracts: health facilities.

Location: 3/17/2021-S. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2021 1 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE HEALTH, PAN, Chair

Summary: Would prohibit the University of California, on and after January 1, 2022, from entering into, amending, or renewing any contract with any health facility contractor or subcontractor in which a health care practitioner employed by the University of California or a trainee of the University of California providing care in the health facility under that contract would be limited in the practitioner's or trainee's ability to provide patients with medical information or medical services due to policy-based restrictions on care in the health facility. The bill would require any contract between the University of California and a health facility pursuant to which a University of California-employed health care practitioner or trainee of the University of California provides care in the health facility to include a provision restating the substance of that prohibition.

Position

Oppose

COVID Related

[AB 1217](#) (Rodriguez D) Personal protective equipment: stockpile.

Location: 3/4/2021-A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Summary: Would authorize the State Department of Public Health to rotate PPE in the stockpile by selling the PPE to a nonprofit agency, local government, or provider, and by contracting to purchase PPE on behalf of a local government or provider. The bill would require a nonprofit agency, local government, or provider that obtains PPE pursuant to these provisions to reimburse the department for the costs of the PPE. The bill would also make a technical change to the date in these provisions.

Position

Watch

[SB 510](#) (Pan D) Health care coverage: COVID-19 cost sharing.

Location: 4/7/2021-S. APPR.

Calendar: 4/12/2021 #4 SENATE SENATE BILLS - SECOND READING FILE

Summary: Would require a health care service plan contract or a disability insurance policy that provides coverage for hospital, medical, or surgical benefits, to cover the costs for health care services related to the testing for COVID-19, or a future pandemic disease when declared a public health emergency by the Governor of the State of California, and would prohibit that contract or policy from imposing cost sharing or prior authorization requirements for that coverage. The bill would also require a contract or policy to cover without cost sharing or prior authorization an item, service, or immunization intended to prevent or mitigate COVID-19, or a future pandemic disease when declared a public health emergency by the Governor of the State of California, that is recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force or the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as specified.

Position

Watch

End of Life/Palliative Care

[AB 1234](#) (Arambula D) Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment forms: registry.

Location: 3/4/2021-A. HEALTH

Summary: Current law defines a request regarding resuscitative measures as a written document, signed by an individual with capacity, or a legally recognized health care decisionmaker, and the individual's physician, directing a health care provider regarding resuscitative measures. Current law defines a Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment form, which is commonly referred to as a POLST form, and provides that a request regarding resuscitative measures includes a POLST form. Current law requires that a POLST form and the medical intervention and procedures offered by the form be explained by a health care provider. Current law distinguishes a request regarding resuscitative measures from an advance health care directive. This bill would establish similar provisions relating to the validity and enforceability of POLST forms and would allow an electronic signature to be used for the purposes of an advance health care directive and POLST form.

Position

Support

[AB 1280](#) (Irwin D) California Hospice Licensure Act of 1990.

Location: 3/18/2021-A. HEALTH

Summary: Would prohibit a hospice patient recruiter, defined to include an employee of a hospice facility, a hospice patient, or a family member of a hospice patient, from receiving, directly or indirectly, any form of payment in exchange for referring a patient to a federally funded or nonfederally funded provider of hospice or hospice facility. The bill would require a licensee to provide a patient and their representative with all information relating to the hospice intake process in both the spoken and written form and in a language and manner that the patient and their representative understand. The bill would further require a licensee to conduct, document, and retain a written comprehensive assessment for each patient that separately identifies, among other things, the patient's need for hospice care and services.

Position

Watch

[SB 353](#) (Roth D) Hospice: services to seriously ill patients.

Location: 3/10/2021-S. APPR.

Calendar: 4/19/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Under the California Hospice Licensure Act of 1990, the State Department of Public Health licenses and regulates persons or agencies that provide hospice, which is a type of interdisciplinary health care that includes palliative care to individuals experiencing the last phases of life due to the

existence of a terminal disease and supportive care to the primary caregivers and family of the hospice patient. The act authorizes, until January 1, 2022, a licensee under the act to provide any of the authorized interdisciplinary hospice services, including palliative care, to a patient who has a serious illness. This bill would extend the authority under these provisions until January 1, 2027.

Position
Support

[SB 380](#) (Eggman D) End of life.

Location: 3/24/2021-S. JUD.

Summary: Would allow for an individual to qualify for aid-in-dying medication by making 2 oral requests a minimum of 48 hours apart. The bill would eliminate the requirement that an individual who is prescribed and ingests aid-in-dying medication make a final attestation. The bill would require that the date of all oral and written requests be documented in an individual's medical record and would require that upon a transfer of care, that record be provided to the qualified individual. The bill would extend the operation of the act indefinitely, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program by extending the operation of crimes for specified violations of the End of Life Option Act.

Position
Oppose

[SB 664](#) (Allen D) Hospice licensure: moratorium on new licenses.

Location: 3/18/2021-S. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2021 1 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE HEALTH, PAN, Chair

Summary: The California Hospice Licensure Act of 1990 requires a person, political subdivision of the state, or other governmental agency to obtain a license from the State Department of Public Health to provide hospice services to an individual who is experiencing the last phase of life due to a terminal disease, as defined, and their family, except as provided. The act also provides for the renewal of a license. The act imposes criminal penalties on any person who violates any provision of the act or any rule or regulation promulgated under the act. This bill would impose, beginning on January 1, 2022, a moratorium on the department issuing a new license to provide hospice services, unless the department makes a written finding that an applicant for a new license has shown a demonstrable need for hospice services in the area where the applicant proposes to operate based on the concentration of all existing hospice services in that area.

Position
Watch

Health Care Reform

[AB 1130](#) (Wood D) California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act.

Location: 4/6/2021-A. APPR.

Summary: Would establish, within of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the Office of Health Care Affordability to analyze the health care market for cost trends and drivers of spending, develop data-informed policies for lowering health care costs for consumers, set and enforce cost targets, and create a state strategy for controlling the cost of health care and ensuring affordability for consumers and purchasers. The bill would also establish the Health Care Affordability Advisory Board, composed of 9 members and 2 ex officio members, appointed as prescribed, to recommend health care cost targets and to advise the Director of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the office.

Position
Watch

[AB 1400](#) (Kalra D) Guaranteed Health Care for All.

Location: 2/19/2021-A. PRINT

Summary: The Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care. Current law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Current law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. This bill, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, would create the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.

Position
Watch

[SB 326](#) (Pan D) Health care coverage: federal health care reforms.

Location: 3/10/2021-S. APPR.

Calendar: 4/19/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: The Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Current law requires the above-described federal health care coverage market reforms to apply to a health care service plan, but conditions the operation of certain of these market reforms on the continued operation of PPACA or certain of its requirements. This bill would delete the conditional operation of the above-described provisions based on the continued operation of PPACA, the federal individual mandate, the federal coverage guarantee, and federal essential health benefits coverage requirements.

Position

Support

Hospital Operations and Finance

[AB 510](#) (Wood D) Out-of-network health care benefits.

Location: 2/18/2021-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/20/2021 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Assembly Chamber ASSEMBLY HEALTH, WOOD, Chair

Summary: Would authorize a noncontracting individual health professional, excluding specified professionals, to bill or collect the out-of-network cost-sharing amount directly from the enrollee or insured receiving services under a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, if the enrollee consents in writing or electronically at least 72 hours in advance of care. The bill would require the consent to include a list of contracted providers at the facility who are able to provide the services and to be provided in the 15 most commonly used languages in the facility's geographic region.

Position

Watch

[AB 1020](#) (Friedman D) Health care debt and fair billing.

Location: 4/6/2021-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/20/2021 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Assembly Chamber ASSEMBLY HEALTH, WOOD, Chair

Summary: Current law requires a hospital to maintain an understandable written policy regarding discount payments for financially qualified patients and an understandable written charity care policy. Current law requires that uninsured patients or patients with high medical costs who are at or below 350% of the federal poverty level be eligible for charity care or discount payments from a hospital. This bill would instead require that uninsured patients or patients with high medical costs who are at or below 400% of the federal poverty level be eligible for charity care or discount payments from a hospital, and would authorize a hospital to grant eligibility for charity care or discount payments to patients with incomes over 400% of the federal poverty level. The bill would redefine "high medical costs" to include annual out-of-pocket costs at the hospital that exceed the lesser of 10% of the patient's current family income or family income in the prior 12 months.

Position

Watch

[AB 1131](#) (Wood D) Health information network.

Location: 4/6/2021-A. APPR.

Summary: Would establish the statewide health information network (statewide HIN) governing board, an independent public entity not affiliated with an agency or department with specified membership, to provide the data infrastructure needed to meet California's health care access, equity, affordability, public health, and quality goals, as specified. The bill would require the governing board to issue a request for proposals to select an operating entity with specified minimum capabilities to support the electronic exchange of health information between, and aggregate and integrate data from multiple sources within, the State of California, among other responsibilities. The bill would require the statewide HIN to take specified actions with respect to reporting on, and auditing the security and finances of, the health information network.

Position

Watch

[AB 1132](#) (Wood D) Health Care Consolidation and Contracting Fairness Act of 2021.

Location: 3/4/2021-A. HEALTH

Summary: The Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Current law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the

Department of Insurance. Current law regulates contracts between health care service plans or health insurers and health care providers or health facilities, including requirements for reimbursement and the cost-sharing amount collected from an enrollee or insured. This bill, the Health Care Consolidation and Contracting Fairness Act of 2021, would prohibit a contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, between a health care service plan or health insurer and a health care provider or health facility from containing terms that, among other things, restrict the plan or insurer from steering an enrollee or insured to another provider or facility or require the plan or insurer to contract with other affiliated providers or facilities.

Position

Oppose

[AB 1464](#) (Arambula D) Hospitals: seismic safety.

Location: 3/11/2021-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/27/2021 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Assembly Chamber ASSEMBLY HEALTH, WOOD, Chair

Summary: The Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983 establishes, under the jurisdiction of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, a program of seismic safety building standards for certain hospitals constructed on and after March 7, 1973. A violation of any provision of the act is a misdemeanor. The act requires, before January 1, 2020, the owner of an acute care inpatient hospital whose building does not substantially comply with described seismic safety regulations or standards to submit to the office an attestation that the board of directors of that hospital is aware that the hospital building is required to meet a specified deadline for substantial compliance with those regulations and standards. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2023, the owner of an acute care inpatient hospital to update the above-described submission by reporting the services provided in each building of the acute care inpatient hospital.

Position

Support

[SB 371](#) (Caballero D) Health information technology.

Location: 3/24/2021-S. APPR.

Calendar: 4/19/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, PORTANTINO, Chair

Summary: Would require any federal funds the California Health and Human Services Agency receives for health information technology and exchange to be deposited in the California Health Information Technology and Exchange Fund. The bill would authorize CHHSA to use the fund to provide grants to health care providers to implement or expand health information technology and to contract for direct data exchange technical assistance for safety net providers. The bill would require a health information organization to be connected to the California Trusted Exchange Network and to a qualified national network. The bill would also require a health care provider, health system, health care service plan, or health insurer that engages in health information exchange to comply with specified federal standards.

Position

Watch

Mental and Behavioral Health

[SB 221](#) (Wiener D) Health care coverage: timely access to care.

Location: 3/17/2021-S. APPR.

Summary: Would codify the regulations adopted by the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to provide timely access standards for health care service plans and insurers for nonemergency health care services. The bill would require both a health care service plan and a health insurer, including a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan, to ensure that appointments with nonphysician mental health and substance use disorder providers are subject to the timely access requirements. The bill would additionally require a health care service plan and a health insurer, including a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan, to ensure that an enrollee or insured that is undergoing a course of treatment for an ongoing mental health or substance use disorder condition is able to get a followup appointment with a nonphysician mental health care or substance use disorder provider within 10 business days of the prior appointment. The bill would require that a referral to a specialist by another provider meet the timely access standards.

Position

Watch

[SB 279](#) (Pan D) Specialty mental health services and substance use disorder treatment.

Location: 3/3/2021-S. HEALTH

Summary: Current law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including mental health and substance use disorder services, pursuant to a schedule of

benefits. Under current law, for individuals 21 years of age and older, a service is “medically necessary” if it is reasonable and necessary to protect life, to prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain. Existing law provides that for individuals under 21 years of age, “medically necessary” or “medical necessity” standards are governed by the definition in federal law. This bill would provide that the above-specified medical necessity standards do not preclude coverage for, and reimbursement of, a clinically appropriate and covered mental health or substance use disorder assessment, screening, or treatment service before a provider renders a diagnosis.

Position

Watch

Social Determinants of Health

[AB 71](#) (Rivas, Luz D) Homelessness funding: Bring California Home Act.

Location: 1/15/2021-A. REV. & TAX

Calendar: 4/19/2021 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202 ASSEMBLY REVENUE AND TAXATION, BURKE, Chair

Summary: Would exempt any regulation, standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice, or guideline established or issued by the Franchise Tax Board to implement its provisions from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position

Watch

[AB 1204](#) (Wicks D) Hospital equity reporting.

Location: 3/4/2021-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/13/2021 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Assembly Chamber ASSEMBLY HEALTH, WOOD, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to oversee various aspects of the health care market, including oversight of hospital facilities and community benefit plans. Existing law requires a private, not-for-profit hospital to adopt and update a community benefits plan that describes the activities the hospital has undertaken to address identified community needs within its mission and financial capacity, including health care services rendered to vulnerable populations. This bill would add racial and ethnic groups experiencing disparate health outcomes and socially disadvantaged groups to the definition of “vulnerable populations” for community benefits reporting purposes.

Position

Watch

[SB 17](#) (Pan D) Office of Racial Equity.

Location: 3/23/2021-S. JUD.

Calendar: 4/13/2021 1:30 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE JUDICIARY, UMBERG, Chair

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2029, establish in state government an Office of Racial Equity, an independent public entity not affiliated with an agency or department, that shall be governed by a Racial Equity Advisory and Accountability Council. The bill would authorize the council to hire an executive director to organize, administer, and manage the operations of the office. The bill would task the office with coordinating, analyzing, developing, evaluating, and recommending strategies for advancing racial equity across state agencies, departments, and the office of the Governor.

Position

Support

[SB 65](#) (Skinner D) Maternal care and services.

Location: 3/18/2021-S. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/14/2021 1 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE HEALTH, PAN, Chair

Summary: The Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Act provides for specified training programs for certain health care workers, including family physicians, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Current law establishes a state medical contract program with accredited medical schools, hospitals, and other programs and institutions to increase the number of students and residents receiving quality education and training in specified primary care specialties and maximize the delivery of primary care and family physician services to underserved areas of the state. This bill would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to contract with programs that train certified nurse-midwives and programs that train licensed midwives to increase the number of students receiving quality education and training as a certified nurse-midwife or a licensed midwife, and would require the office to contract only with programs that include a component of training designed for medically underserved multicultural communities, lower socioeconomic neighborhoods, or rural communities, and that are organized to prepare program graduates for service

in those neighborhoods and communities.

Position
Watch

Workforce

[AB 650](#) ([Muratsuchi D](#)) **Employer-provided benefits: health care workers: COVID-19: hazard premium pay.**

Location: 3/25/2021-A. L. & E.

Calendar: 4/22/2021 10:30 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 437 ASSEMBLY LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, KALRA, Chair

Summary: The Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 requires employers to provide an employee, who works in California for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment, with paid sick days for prescribed purposes, to be accrued at a rate of no less than one hour for every 30 hours worked. Existing law authorizes an employer to limit an employee's use of paid sick days to 24 hours or 3 days in each year of employment. Current law charges the Labor Commissioner, who is the Chief of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, with enforcement of various labor laws. This bill, the Health Care Workers Recognition and Retention Act, would require a health care provider, as defined, to pay hazard premium pay in the amount of \$5 per hour to each of its health care workers for each hour of work performed.

Position
Watch

Total Measures: 31
Total Tracking Forms: 31