

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week September 5, 2022

## State Issues

Bills awaiting  
Governor's Action

The 2022 Legislative Session ended shortly after midnight on August 31, with some major items left to be discussed until the very end. By the end of last week, Governor Newsom has acted on just over 250 bills, with more than 900 bills left on his desk to either sign or veto before the Constitutional deadline of September 30. Several bills supported by the Alliance are now awaiting action on the Governor's desk.

**AB 32 (Aguiar Curry)** amends previous the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) telehealth policy and would expand access to those services.

**AB 2530 (Wood)** would ensure continuity of health care coverage by requiring Covered California to administer a financial assistance program to help Californians obtain and maintain health benefits if the individual loses employer coverage as a result of a labor dispute, beginning July 1, 2023.

**SB 944 (Pan)** improves financial support for health coverage by requiring Covered California to reduce cost-sharing, including eliminating deductibles if enhanced federal funds are made available for the 2023 and 2024 calendar years, and if funded through an appropriation by the Legislature.

**SB 1019 (Gonzalez)** helps improve access to needed behavioral health services by requiring Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCMCP) to conduct annual outreach and education to its enrollees and primary care physicians regarding the mental health benefits covered by the plan and requires DHCS to assess enrollee experience with mental health benefits covered by MCMCPs.

**SB 979 (Dodd)** ensures access to health care during state of emergencies by giving various state departments more authority to make policy exceptions that stand in the way of patient access to care.

We will be supporting bills that are on the Governor's desk that we believe improve the social determinants of health of the patients we serve. These include:

**AB 2817 (Reyes and Rivas)** would establish the Housing California Challenge Program to provide direct rental assistance to help persons, who are experiencing homelessness, obtain housing administered by the California Health and Human Services Agency.

*(more)*

<p>Bills awaiting Governor's Action <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>AB 2483 (Maienschein)</b> would better align and maximize the use of Medi-Cal Service funding from various programs with the state's affordable housing programs by creating incentives for developers to pair this service funding with the Multi-Family House Program; thus, creating more units for seniors and individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness who are currently living in nursing homes, thus freeing up nursing home beds for others.</p> <p><b>SB 907 (Pan)</b> establishes a noncompetitive grant program called the Local, Equitable Access to Food (LEAF) Program, to scale and improve Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) processes at certified farmers' markets.</p> <p>Unfortunately, several other bills that impact the social determinants of health of our communities that the Alliance was following failed to make it to a vote on the Floor. These include bills that would have supported the state's Racial Equity Commission, improved access to housing and training programs for individuals leaving incarceration, supported care for individuals fleeing human trafficking, provided grants to the elderly who are at risk of homelessness, and creating a program that would ensure federal climate change, clean energy and infrastructure funds are provided to disadvantaged communities. The Alliance will continue to seek opportunities to support these efforts.</p>
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