

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 6, 2023

State Issues

<p>Bill Introduction Deadline Nears</p>	<p>With just one week from the legislative deadline for new bills to be introduced (February 17), some health-related bills are beginning to come into print. It is expected that the bills with significant impacts to hospitals and health care have not yet been announced or introduced. More to come.</p> <p>We expect that at a press conference next week, a health care minimum wage bill will be announced, but few details have been shared. We also are hearing a bill will be introduced that would strengthen the penalties for assaults against health care workers while at work, which has been a growing concern and issue in the last several years.</p>
<p>State Budget Update</p>	<p>As has been reported, the hospital community is advancing a Medi-Cal budget proposal to bring \$1.5 billion in one-time funds to safety net hospitals. This week, the California Hospital Association held a well-attended legislative briefing on the need for increased Medi-Cal funding and the financial challenges facing hospitals. The briefing included CHA Executive leaders and President of Kaweah Health Care District (Visalia). They outlined the financial struggles of California's hospitals that serve a large portion of the state's Medi-Cal and Medicare patients as a result of COVID, and fundamental structural imbalances imbedded in the Medi-Cal funding model for hospitals. Advocacy on this issue is ongoing as budget hearings and budget subcommittee hearings are ramping up.</p> <p>We are in the process of reviewing recently released budget trailer bills being proposed by the Administration, which can be accessed here: https://esd.dof.ca.gov/trailer-bill/trailerBill.html. There are trailer bills related to CalAIM, POLST, and health plan coverage of insulin biosimilars. They also provide more details on the budget delays included Governor Newsom's January Budget proposal as it relates to the health care workforce funding.</p>

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