

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 20, 2023

State Issues

New Bill Introductions	<p>Since the bill introduction deadline last Friday, 2,745 bills have been introduced. We are still reviewing all of the bills, and many are considered spot bills – they have no substantive policy language included or simply have “intent” language. We should expect those spot bills to be amended in the next few weeks. In addition to the bills highlighted in last week’s Update, following are a few more key bills introduced:</p> <p><u>SB 774 (Jones/Grove): Nonprofit Health Care Facilities:</u> This bill would bar the Attorney General from placing conditions on nonprofit hospital transactions in certain circumstances. This bill, authored and supported by the Senate Republican Caucus, is intended as a solution to hospital closures due to acquisitions not moving forward due to restrictive conditions placed on the transaction by the Attorney General.</p> <p><u>SB 870 (Caballero): Health facilities: Rural hospitals.</u> The spot bill states that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that will aid in the prevention of rural hospital closures. Since Madera Hospital closed in her district at the end of last year, Senator Caballero continues to champion solutions to save financially distressed hospitals, and this spot bill may be amended to include some solutions before the session is over.</p> <p><u>AB 242 (Wood): Critical Access Hospitals:</u> The bill would eliminate the sunset of, and make permanent, the program that allows critical access hospitals to directly hire physicians within set criteria. It does not extend the program to other hospitals.</p> <p><u>AB 1690 (Kalra): Universal health care coverage.</u> This is a spot bill that could be a vehicle for a single payer health care policy.</p>
Senate Budget Hearing on CalAIM	<p>This week, the full Budget Committee, chaired by Senator Nancy Skinner, held an oversight hearing into the State’s ongoing effort to reform the Medi-Cal program, called CalAIM – agenda and background material for the hearing can be found at: https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/February_22_2023_Hearing_Agenda_CA_Advancing_and_Innovating_Medi_Cal.pdf.</p> <p>The hearing included testimony from several panels including: an overview panel, a panel focused on Enhanced Care Management, and one on behavioral health. The overview panel included a presentation from the California Health Care Foundation on the overall Medi-Cal context for this transformation, the Director of the Department of Health Care Services, and the State Medicaid Director. The CHCF slides can be found at: https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/CalAIM%20Hearing%20February%202023%20-%20CHCF.pdf.</p>

(more)

CalAIM Hearing <i>(continued)</i>	A Stakeholder panel, representing the local health plans, patient advocates and behavioral health organizations, included some testimony of the promise and good intention behind the CalAIM plan, but much of the presentations focused on the many implementation concerns and funding shortfalls that are making the roll out of the endeavor challenging. The following link provides a video of the hearing (scroll down to the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 22 and click the “Watch” button): https://www.senate.ca.gov/media-archive .
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For more information, please contact Lori Dangberg at 1215 K Street, Suite 2000 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814
916.591.3991 or e-mail: ldangberg@thealliance.net