

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of March 6, 2023

State Issues

New Bills Introductions

The Alliance is reviewing the list of new bill introductions that may be of interest to the Catholic health ministry. As reported earlier, many bills are “spot bills” and we expect substantive language to be amended into these bills by March 22. We will provide an Alliance Legislative Summary and Status Report of relevant bills in the coming weeks.

Covered California Open Enrollment Period Successful

This week, Covered California (our State Health Exchange) announced that 263,320 people had newly selected a health plan for 2023, continuing a trend of steady growth in recent years. The total is more than 14,000 higher than 2021’s total, and 8,000 higher than last year’s figure. In addition, more than 1.4 million Californians renewed their health insurance for 2023, bringing Covered California’s overall enrollment to 1.74 million.

In describing their success, Covered California leadership gave credit to the federal Inflation Reduction Act, which provides increased and expanded financial help to those buying coverage who meet certain eligibility criteria, bringing down the cost of coverage for millions of Californians who need health insurance.

Covered California’s analysis shows that the total number of consumers selecting a plan for 2023 is 1,739,360, which reflects 1,476,040 consumers renewing their coverage and 263,320 consumers newly signing up for coverage during open enrollment.

	2021	2022	2023
New Enrollees	249,279	255,575	263,320
Renewing Consumers	1,376,267	1,521,867	1,476,040
Total	1,625,546	1,777,442	1,739,360

Since Covered California’s first open-enrollment period in 2013, federal data shows that California’s uninsured rate fell from 17.2 percent to a record low 7.0 percent in 2021, which is the largest percentage point drop for any state in the nation over this time period. In addition, Covered California’s total enrollment has increased by 200,000 since the beginning of 2020, before the pandemic started.

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