

# CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates Budget and Legislative Priorities

April 15, 2019



## CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates 2019 Budget Priorities

- **Changes to the 340B Program:** The Governor's Executive Order on Pharmacy and the associated proposed budget implications of taking all managed care drugs and moving them to Fee For Service (i.e. elimination of 340B in Medi-Cal managed care) will have a major negative impact on health centers that participate in 340B. We request a solution which includes express provisions to protect health centers that currently operate 340B Drug Discount Programs.
- **Prop 56: Value Based Payments and Screenings:** The overall goals of the VBP program, to improve quality and lower costs, specifically targeted at behavioral health integration, chronic disease management, and prenatal and postpartum care is a tremendous addition to the Medi-Cal program, and community health centers need to be one of the providers eligible to participate.
- **Community Clinic Vision Integration Program:** Provides support for community health centers to integrate comprehensive vision services in the primary care setting. Specifically, the program will provide grants to CHCs to add vision services at sites that have not provided these services. Optometric services are vital in combatting diabetes and other eye health conditions. *Sponsored by the California Optometric Association.*
- **Virtual Dental Home (VDH)** - This proposal seeks to clarify that community providers, such as FQHCs/RHCs may establish patients for the purposes of billing through store-and-forward teledentistry, as part of the VDH program. The VDH program, established by AB 1174 (2014), allows members of a dental care team to provide services to underserved individuals in a community setting. *Sponsored by The Children's Partnership.*

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## CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates Sponsored Legislation

- **Senate Bill 66 (Atkins/ McGuire) Same Day Visits:** SB 66 will allow community health centers to bill Medi-Cal for two visits if a patient is provided mental health services on the same day they receive other medical services. *Sponsored by CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, the Steinberg Institute, California Association of Public Hospitals, Local Health Plans of California.*
- **Assembly Bill 899 (Wood) Streamlining Expansion of Primary Care Facilities:** AB 899 will maximize the ability of community health centers to expand access to health care for all Californians, by giving them the option to utilize an existing outpatient clinic or previously licensed primary care clinic to meet the growing demand for services. *Sponsored by CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, the Health Alliance of Northern California, North Coast Clinics Network, and the Redwood Community Health Coalition.*
- **Assembly Bill 1494 (Aguiar-Curry) Declared Emergencies:** AB 1494 seeks to clarify state law to ensure that community health centers can provide care to patients through telephonic visits, in a shelter, or in a patient's home utilizing telehealth technology during a declared state of emergency. *Sponsored by CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates and the Redwood Community Health Coalition.*

## Priority Health4All Legislation

- **Senate Bill 29 (Durazo)/ Assembly Bill 4 (Bonta/Chiu/Santiago) Win #Health4All:** This bill would expand access to Medi-Cal benefits to all Californians, regardless of immigration status. *Sponsored by the California Immigrant Policy Center and Health Access.*
- **Senate Bill 175 (Pan) / Assembly Bill 414 (Bonta):** This bill would create an Individual Mandate to replace the federal version which was repealed along with the federal tax code overhaul. Funds would support subsidies for severely low-income Californians.
- **Senate Bill 65 (Pan) CA / Assembly Bill 174 (Wood):** This bill would create the Affordable Care Access Plus Program to provide financial subsidies to low-income Californians at or below 600% FPL. *Sponsored by Health Access.*

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## Priority Legislation

- **Senate Bill 154 (Pan) Medi-Cal restorative dental services:** AB 154 allows for the application of, and reimbursement for, silver diamine fluoride to treat dental cavities. Permits registered dental hygienists to receive reimbursement for the application as part of a comprehensive treatment plan. *Sponsored by the California Dental Association.*
- **Assembly Bill 138 (Bloom) California Community Health Fund:** AB 138 will create a fee or tax on the distribution of sugar and sweetened beverages (SSB). Funds would be appropriated to support the prevention of the leading causes of illness and support health equity and reducing disparities. *Sponsored by the American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics – California, Public Health Institute; CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is a member of the coalition.*
- **Assembly Bill 341 (Maienschein) CalHEERS- Application for CalFresh:** AB 341 will streamline the CalFresh application process by ensuring that the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) transfers an individual’s application to the county for processing of a qualified CalFresh application. *Sponsored by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.*
- **Senate Bill 361 (Mitchell) Medi-Cal - Health Home Program:** SB 361 will amend the Health Homes Program to remove the two-year budget neutrality clause and create more defined goals for the program. *Sponsored by the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, Western Center on Law and Poverty.*
- **Assembly Bill 515 (Mathis) Medi-Cal Overpayments: FQHCs and RHCs:** AB 515 will lower the interest rate that a community health center can be charged in the case of an overpayment by the state. The rate would be based on the surplus money invest fund or 3% per annum, whichever is lower. *Sponsored by Borrego Health.*
- **Assembly Bill 715 (Wood) Medi-Cal Program for Aged and Disabled Persons:** AB 715 aims to increase the income eligibility for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Federal Poverty Level from 100%, plus standards, to 138% FPL. This increase would expand Medi-Cal eligibility for these individuals. *Sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty, Disability Rights California, Justice in Aging.*
- **Assembly Bill 769 (Smith) FQHCs and RHCs - Licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC):** AB 769 seeks to expand the number of Medi-Cal reimbursement eligible providers for FQHCs/RHCs. The addition of LPCCs would trigger a PPS rate adjustment. *Sponsored by the California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors.*
- **Assembly Bill 770(Garcia) FQHCs:** AB 770 seeks to make changes to the FQHC PPS rate process including adjustments to per-visit rates, scope of services changes, time frames for adjustment requests, incentive payments, and appeals processes. *Sponsored by Clínicas Del Camino Real.*