

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS

TOP PRIORITY BILL STATUS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

BILL/AUTHOR	SUBJECT	POSITION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
AB 156 (Wood D)	Individual market: enrollment periods	SUPPORT	CAHU SUPPORTS AB 156, which revises enrollment periods for 2019 under which people may purchase health insurance through Covered California and the individual insurance market. This bill also sets the rate filing requirement and regulator response to the open enrollment period and deletes a reference to the federal reinsurance program.	PASSED SENATE FLOOR ENROLLMENT 9/16/2017
AB 157 (Wood D)	Small group market: single risk pool: index rate	WATCH: PENDING AMENDMENT	CAHU is closely watching AB 157 for amendments. AB 157, which is currently a spot bill, is likely to become a prime vehicle for small group health care reforms that will be added in reaction to changes made at the federal level in the coming weeks and months.	MOVED TO SENATE INACTIVE FILE 9/13/2017
AB 211 (Waldron R)	Health and care facilities	SUPPORT	Previously, CAHU SUPPORTED AB 251 which would ensure health care consumers are afforded better access to specialty clinics throughout California. This bill was gut and amended to contain the previous contents of AB 251.	SENATE RULES COMMITTEE 2-YEAR BILL
AB 251 (Bonta D)	Health and care facilities	WATCH	This bill has been gut and amended and now will require dialysis clinics to spend at least 85% of their treatment revenue on direct patient care, quality improvements, taxes, and licensure fees. Clinics that do not meet the 85% requirement will be required to issue refunds to private payers and individuals who purchase dialysis services.	MOVED TO SENATE INACTIVE FILE 9/7/2017

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AB 265 (Wood D)	Prescription drugs: prohibition on price discount.	SUPPORT	CAHU SUPPORTS AB 265 which would prohibit the use of coupons for pharmaceutical drugs when other FDA-approved drugs are available and less expensive. Coupons incentivize patients to select their prescription drugs by brand choice and may raise the costs of providing coverage for health and prescription benefits, which in turn, results in higher health care premium costs for all consumers.	<i>PASSED SENATE FLOOR</i> ENROLLMENT 9/13/2017
AB 417 (Wood D)	Health coverage: small employers	WATCH: PENDING AMENDMENT	CAHU is watching AB 417 for amendments. AB 417, which is currently a spot bill, is very likely to become a prime vehicle for small group health care reforms that will be added in reaction to changes made at the federal level in the coming weeks and months.	<i>SENATE FLOOR CONSENT CALENDAR</i> MOVED TO SENATE INACTIVE FILE 9/13/2017
AB 595 (Wood D)	Health Insurers: Mergers And Acquisitions	WATCH: PENDING AMENDMENT	CAHU is tracking AB 595 regarding health care service plan acquisitions and mergers. CAHU believes that it is necessary to ensure affordable choices for health care consumers that are only available through a competitive health insurance marketplace.	<i>HELD on ASSEMBLY Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE</i> <i>5/26/17</i> 2-YEAR BILL
AB 989 (Cooper D) and (Oberholte R)	Health Savings Accounts: Tax Conformity	SUPPORT	CAHU is working in tandem with NAIFA California and IIABCAL to SUPPORT AB 989 which would conform state and federal tax laws pertaining to health savings accounts (HSAs) in order to provide needed savings to public and private sector employees and employers. Health Savings Accounts allow individuals to save tax-free dollars to pay for near-term medical expenses and also save for future longer-term costs, in particular, medical care costs that occur after retirement.	HELD on ASSEMBLY Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE 5/26/17

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AB 1584 <i>(Gonzalez Fletcher D)</i>	Insurance: production agents: license examination: contracts	OPPOSE UNLESS AMEND	CAHU is OPPOSED UNLESS AMENDED to AB 1584 which attempts to mandate agents who take the license examination in Spanish to provide all contracts, policies, certificates, riders, and any other required notices in Spanish, if Spanish was principally used in the negotiation of the contract. The mandate would be more appropriately placed on health plans and carriers who are the source of all documents listed.	<i>ASSEMBLY INSURANCE</i> 2- YEAR BILL 5/12/2017
AB 1601 <i>(Bloom D)</i>	New Mandate: Hearing aids: minors	OPPOSE UNLESS AMEND	CAHU OPPOSES AB 1601 that mandates all health plans provide coverage for hearing devices for those under 18 years of age unless amended to include reasonable cost controls.	<i>HELD on ASSEMBLY Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE</i> 2- YEAR BILL
SB 17 <i>(Hernandez D)</i>	Health care: prescription drug costs.	SUPPORT	CAHU supports SB 17 that seeks to improve transparency of prescription drug costs by requiring health care service plans and carriers that report rate information to also include information regarding the percentage of the premium dollar spent on prescription drugs. This bill also requires drug manufacturers to provide prior notice of rate increases for prescription drugs.	<i>PASSED SENATE FLOOR</i> ENROLLMENT 9/13/2017
SB 133 <i>(Hernandez D)</i>	Individual market: single risk pool: index rate.	WATCH	CAHU is watching SB 133 which requires a health plan at the request of a newly covered enrollee in an individual policy, to arrange for the completion of covered services in compliance with existing law by a nonparticipating provider, if the newly covered enrollee's prior coverage was terminated, including when a health benefit plan is withdrawn from any portion of a market. Also requires plans to provide notice of the aforementioned in termination of coverage notices.	<i>PASSED ASSEMBLY FLOOR</i> ENROLLMENT 9/15/2017

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SB 134 (Hernandez D)	Small group market: single risk pool: index rate.	WATCH: PENDING AMENDMENT	CAHU is closely watching SB 134 for amendments. SB 134, which is currently a spot bill, is very likely to become a prime vehicle for small group health care reforms that will be added in reaction to changes made at the federal level in the coming weeks and months. Identical to AB 157.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR CONSENT CALENDAR ORDERED TO INACTIVE FILE
SB 172 (Portantino D)	Health Care Coverage: Fertility Preservation	OPPOSE	CAHU OPPOSES SB 172 that increases the cost of health care by mandating all new individual or group health insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on and after January 1, 2018, provide fertility preservation coverage for any and all situations, direct or indirect, where fertility may be impacted.	HELD on SENATE Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE 2 -YEAR BILL 5/25/2017
SB 199 (Hernandez D)	Advisory Committee: Health Care Cost, Quality and Equity Atlas	NEUTRAL	As amended, CAHU no longer opposes SB 199 and is now NEUTRAL on the bill. SB 199 now calls for DMHC to convene a broad spectrum of health care stakeholders and experts, to identify the type of data, purpose of use, and entities and individuals that are required to report to, or that may have access to, a health care cost, quality, and equity atlas.	HELD on ASSEMBLY Appropriations SUSPENSE FILE 2 -YEAR BILL 9/1/2017
SB 288 (Hernandez D)	Health coverage: small employers.	WATCH: PENDING AMENDMENT	CAHU is closely monitoring SB 288 for amendments. SB 288, which is currently a spot bill, is very likely to become a prime vehicle for small group health care reforms that will be added in reaction to changes made at the federal level in the coming weeks and months. Identical to AB 417.	ASSEMBLY FLOOR INACTIVE FILE 9/13/17

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SB 515 (Fuller R)	Health care coverage: individual market.	WATCH	CAHU is closely watching SB 515 for amendments. SB 515, which is currently a spot bill, is very likely to become a prime vehicle for individual and family plan health care reforms that will be added in reaction to changes made at the federal level in the coming weeks and months. Identical to AB 156.	SENATE RULES 2 - YEAR BILL 5/12/2017
SB 562 (Lara D)	Universal Single Payer Health System	OPPOSE	CAHU is working with NAIFA California and IIABCaI to OPPOSE SB 562 (Lara/Atkins) which seeks to replace California's healthcare marketplace with a universal Single Payer system that would reduce competition, limit options for consumers, raise costs, and threaten access to care.	HELD AT ASSEMBLY DESK -PER SPEAKER RENDON 2-YEAR BILL
SB 640 (Hertzberg D)	New Tax: Services	OPPOSE	CAHU OPPOSES SB 640, which proposes to establish a first-time sales tax on services, including services provided by independent health insurance agents.	SENATE GOVERNANCE & FINANCE 3/2/2017 2-YEAR BILL
SB 788 (Lara D)	Insurance: licensing: requirements	SUPPORT	In a coalition with other insurance affiliates including NAIFA and IIABCaI, CAHU SUPPORTS SB 788, which would require the Insurance Commissioner to allow individuals who are applying for or renewing an insurance license to use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).	PASSED ASM FLOOR ENROLLMENT 9/15/2017