

Affordable Care Act and State Health Care Proposals

Background

There is continued uncertainty at the federal level related to health care reform. California's counties must continue to engage on any proposal to repeal or alter the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Of California's total Medi-Cal budget of \$19.1 billion, about \$15 billion are federal funds, a large portion of which are associated with ACA Medicaid funding. CSAC will continue to work with our Washington, D.C., representatives, county affiliates, statewide groups, and the Brown Administration to respond to any attempts to reduce Medicaid funding.

In the meantime, a robust state-level discussion on universal health care and single-payer proposals is taking place on several fronts. The California Nurses Association continues to advocate for a single-payer plan in California. Their bill, SB 562, remains on hold in the Assembly due to a lack of fiscal clarity in the current language.

In response to the nurses and other interest groups, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

convened a Select Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage, led by Assembly Members Joaquin Arambula and Jim Wood. The Committee has held numerous hearings to discuss the current state of health care in California as well as ideas for covering the remaining uninsured. While the Committee is not expected to act on any legislative proposals, it will generate a report detailing the findings this spring.

CSAC continues to engage with all stakeholders on state and federal discussions related on health care reform. Efforts to achieve universal health care by groups other than the nurses are beginning to appear in the Legislature, and include a potential state health care mandate, policies to increase health coverage affordability, and reforms to increase the cost-effectiveness of health care overall. Counties, as employers, purchasers of health care, and providers of health care, must be at the forefront of all discussions regarding this complex issue.

Talking Points

- CSAC remains concerned about state and federal proposals that would decrease access to health care or shift costs and risk to counties.
- CSAC strongly supports adequate funding for the local public health and behavioral health systems as part of any plan to reform health care.
- County health-related financial resources are currently earmarked for local health priorities or diverted to state. Counties, at this time, cannot contribute additional fiscal resources to expand health care coverage, but remain committed to the accessibility of quality health care services for all Californians.

