

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 17, 2025

State Issues	
Bill Introduction Deadline	Today marks the deadline for new bills to be introduced for the 2025 Legislative Session. The Alliance continues to review these new bills, and will report on bills of interest to the Catholic health ministry in the coming weeks.
Governor Appoints Members to the MCO Advisory Committee	<p>The Protect Access to Health Care Stakeholder Advisory Committee is beginning to take shape. This is the group outlined in the Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax ballot initiative to advise the Department of Health Care Services on the implementation of the Act. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is responsible for facilitating the stakeholder committee and must provide at least two dedicated staff to support their work. DHCS must consider their input prior to making decisions on implementation of the program, including any changes to or creation of new policies around Medi-Cal rates, supplemental payments, and directed payments.</p> <p>The Committee will have a total of ten members, with the Governor appointing six of the ten positions, and the Speaker and the Senate Pro Tem each getting two appointees. Each position on the Committee must meet very specific criteria and represent different segments of the health care delivery system. A representative from each of the following categories will make up the panel: 1) primary and specialty physicians; 2) public and private hospitals; 3) private emergency ambulance provider; 4) family planning and reproductive health providers; 5) commercial, nongovernmental Medi-Cal managed care plans; 6) clinics; 7) public, nonprofit Medi-Cal managed care plans; 8) dentists; 9) organized labor; and 10) private emergency air ambulance transport provider.</p> <p>The Governor has named five of his six appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, a Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine and Founder and Director at the Center of Reducing Health Disparities at University of California, Davis School of Medicine. ▪ Tam Ma, Associate Vice President for Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs at the University of California Office of the President. Just prior to this position, Tam was the Deputy Legislative Secretary for health in the Governor’s Office. ▪ Amy Moy, Co-Chief Executive Officer at Essential Access Health since 2022, an organization that advocates for access to reproductive health care. ▪ Kristen Cerf, President and Chief Executive Officer at Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan and has a background as chief legal counsel at Blue Shield and Molina, as well as experience at the Department of Managed Care, which is supposed to regulate the plans. ▪ Dr. Irving Ayala-Rodriguez, Chief Medical Officer with Clinica Sierra Vista since 2022, and serves on the California Medical Board. <p>Not yet announced, but expected soon are the appointments by the Speaker of the Assembly and Senate pro Tem. The Speaker’s appointments must represent the public Medi-Cal managed care plans and a dentist. The Pro Tem will be appointing the organized labor and air ambulance representatives.</p>

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