

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of April 20, 2026

State Issues

<p>Fate of Single Payer Health Care</p>	<p>Today is the first policy deadline for bills introduced this session. For all bills keyed fiscal, if it hasn't been heard yet, it is dead for the year. This applies to dozens of bills that were pulled by the author, voted down in Committee, or in some cases, never got assigned to a committee.</p> <p>This last category applies to a closely watched bill: AB 1900 (Kalra). Guaranteed Health Care for All. The Single Payer measure for this year, sponsored by the California Nurses Association and the Health for All Coalition, was authored by Assembly Member Ash Kalra and 24 other Senators and Assembly Members. The Rules Committee, chaired by Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, officially takes the votes to move bills to their committee for hearings, but a decision like this one could only be made by Speaker Rivas.</p> <p>This is Kalra's third attempt at getting his CalCare proposal through the Legislature. Independent analysts had estimated CalCare would cost about \$731 billion to implement, which is about \$14 billion more than California currently spends on health care. In a statement released earlier this week, the California Nurses Association stated they "condemn the California State Assembly's failure to advance A.B. 1900... at a time when health care is needed more urgently than ever before. The failure to advance A.B. 1900 shows a lack of leadership and a capitulation to corporate health care interests...we know that the disastrous impacts of H.R. 1 are coming, and more people will die. This is a disappointing setback, but we will never stop fighting for CalCare."</p>
<p>California Health Care Foundation 2026 Priorities</p>	<p>Every year, the California Health Care Foundation identifies a few health policy topics that they focus on for the year. This year they note that given everything happening in California's health care system, the priorities seem even more acute. They point to the federal policy changes reshaping Medi-Cal and public coverage programs; the election of a new Governor; safety net providers under enormous financial pressure; and finally, many Californians with low incomes are facing real consequences. With that landscape in mind, CHCF selected four areas of focus for the year, where they feel they can "make the most difference."</p> <p>The New Uninsured: Protecting access for millions of Californians threatened by federal funding cuts and policy changes. The goal is to prevent coverage losses wherever possible, and to ensure that those who do lose coverage can still access the care they need. For the Foundation, that means focusing especially on primary care access.</p> <p>The Future of Medi-Cal: Building a bold 10-year roadmap for a more effective and sustainable program. The Foundation is actively supporting the Future of Medi-Cal Commission. They have brought together a group of health</p>

(more)

California Health
Care Foundation
2026 Priorities
(continued)

care leaders to develop a 10-year roadmap for a more effective and sustainable program. They want to provide the next Governor with a concrete, actionable plan to modernize Medi-Cal financing and administration. The commission's findings are due in early 2027.

Health Care Affordability: Identifying practical solutions to make care more affordable for all Californians.

According to CHCF, "The frustrating truth is that safety net providers are telling us they don't earn enough to survive, and people with commercial insurance are telling us care costs too much. Both things are true, and that tension is real." CHCF says their solutions will focus on identifying practical solutions, including reducing administrative waste, supporting stronger oversight through the state Office of Health Care Affordability, and giving policymakers the evidence they need to act.

An AI-Powered Workforce: Putting emerging technology to work for safety net providers and their patients.

The foundation is piloting AI tools in safety net settings and working to ensure that as AI is adopted more widely across health care, it works for providers and patients in under-resourced communities.

For more information, please contact Lori Dangberg at 1215 K Street, Suite 2040 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814
916.591.3991 or e-mail: ldangberg@thealliance.net