Health Policy: Coverage, Health Equity, and Sacramento
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Health Care Forecast Conference

ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

About ITUP

ITUP Mission
The mission of ITUP is to promote innovative
and workable policy solutions that expand
health care access and improve the health of all
Californians. ITUP implements its mission
through policy-focused research and broad-
based stakeholder engagement.

ITUP Vision
ITUP believes that all Californians should have a fair
opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

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ITUP Values

ITUP seeks a health care system that is:

Universal – All Californians are eligible for comprehensive health coverage and services, including primary, specialty, behavioral, oral, and vision health services, as well as services that address the social determinants of health.

Equitable – All Californians receive health care coverage, treatment, and services that address the social determinants of health regardless of health status, age, ability, income, language, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and geographic region.

Accessible – All Californians have access to coverage options and services that are available, timely, and appropriate.

Effective – Health, health care, and related services that address the social determinants of health are person-centered, value-based, coordinated, and high-quality.

Affordable – Coverage and services are affordable for consumers at the point of purchase and care; and, at the health system level for public and private purchasers.

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About ITUP

- **25-year-old, independent 501(c)(3) health policy organization**
- **Each year, ITUP:**
  - Hosts an annual conference
  - Runs a dozen policy and regional workgroups across the state from San Diego to Shasta Counties
  - Produces 10 state and regional Health Care Coverage Profiles
  - Publishes in-depth issue briefs and high-level health policy fact sheets
  - Hosts online 360-degree Policy Forums and Webinars
- **We have 3 KEY FOCUS areas to Increase Coverage and Make it Meaningful:**
  - Coverage and Access
  - Delivery System Transformation
  - The Future of Health

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National Health Policy Context

- **California's New, and Friendlier, Relationship to Washington, D.C.**
  - Vice President Kamala Harris
  - Health World: Xavier Becerra, JD, Secretary of Health and Human Services Nominee
  - CMS Administrator Possibilities: Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Manatt, and Mandy Cohen, North Carolina Health Secretary
- **50/50 Senate Split and VP's Tie-Breaker**
  - Congressional vs. Regulatory Action
- **President Biden's First 100 Days Priorities**
  - COVID-19 Pandemic Relief and Vaccine Roll-Out
  - Commitment to Health Equity
  - Building on the Promise of the Affordable Care Act
    - Single Payer/Medicare for All Question
  - Immigration
- **Impeachment Trial and Partisanship**

State Health Policy Context

❖ **Governor's Budget**
  ❖ Budget Released in January
  ❖ Must be Sent to Governor by June 15

❖ **Legislative Session Schedule**
  ❖ Bill Introduction Deadline: February 19
  ❖ Committee Hearings/Process: March – August
  ❖ Governor Signs Bills: September – October
  ❖ Fall Recess: October – December

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State Health Policy Context

❖**Executive Branch Health Leadership Changes**
  ❖Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Health Care Services
  ❖Mary Watanabe, Director, Department of Managed Health Care
  ❖Dr. Alice Chen, Chief Medical Officer, Covered California
  ❖Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

❖**Legislative Leadership Changes**
  ❖Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
  ❖Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton), Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services

State Health Policy Context

- **Broad State-Level Considerations**
  - COVID-19 Pandemic and Recovery, and Vaccine Roll-Out
  - Recall Gavin
  - Re-Opening Schools
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Wildfires
  - Legislature's Interests
- **Newsom Administration's Health and Health Care Priorities**
  - Data, Health Care Costs, Health Information Exchange
  - Health Equity
  - Telehealth
  - CalAIM Initiative
  - Coverage
    - Medi-Cal Enrollment Increase
    - Coverage for Undocumented Seniors
    - Healthy CA For All Commission

Health Care Coverage and Equity

❖ **Assembly Bills (ABs)**
   ❖ AB 4 (Arambula)—Coverage for All
   ❖ AB 41 (Wood)—Expand Broadband Infrastructure
   ❖ AB 369 (Kamlager-Dove)—Street Medicine, Homelessness, Medi-Cal
   ❖ AB 510 (Wood)—Out-of-Network Billing
   ❖ AB TBD (Wood)—Health Information Exchange
❖ **Senate Bills (SBs)**
   ❖ SB 17 (Pan)—Racism is a Public Health Crisis
   ❖ SB 56 (Durazo)—Coverage for All Seniors
   ❖ SB 250 (Pan)—Allows DMHC and CDI to Review Plans' and Insurers' Clinical and Utilization Management Policies
   ❖ SB 316 (Eggman and McGuire)—FQHC Payment for Physical Health and Mental Health Visits on the Same Day

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Health Care Coverage and Equity

❖**Budget Items:**
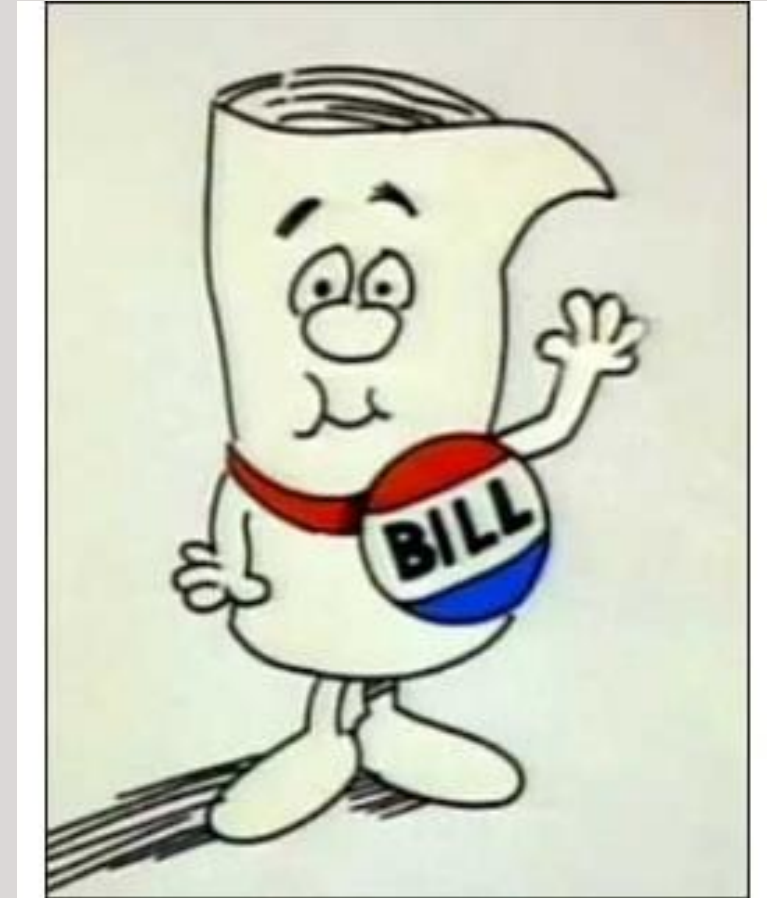- ❖COVID-19 Recovery and Vaccine Distribution
- ❖Office of Health Care Affordability
- ❖Health Information Exchange
- ❖Proposition 56 Directed Payments Continued

❖**Administrative Items:**
- ❖CalAIM Implementation
- ❖Telehealth Policies Made Permanent
- ❖Medi-Cal Rx Go Live (April 1, 2021)
- ❖End of the State of Emergency

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What's Next?

❖ COVID-19 Recovery and Vaccine Distribution

❖ Budget Hearings

❖ Bills Introduced

❖ Coverage and Medi-Cal Enrollment

❖ CalAIM Implementation

❖ Office of Health Care Affordability

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