



BUDGET SCORECARD

PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

June 12, 2015

The Assembly and Senate have reconciled the differences between their budget proposals for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The Legislature's budget proposal makes key investments in restoring benefits and cuts made during the state's fiscal crisis, funds critical public health and prevention program, and begins the work of extending health care to the undocumented. The final budget must be passed by June 15, 2015. The Governor has until July 1 to sign the budget.

KEY INVESTMENTS & RESTORATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS	GOVERNOR	LEGISLATURE
Extend Health Care Coverage Regardless of Immigration Status. Undocumented low-income children would have access to full-scope Medi-Cal. The Budget Conference Committee included bill language to research capped enrollment for adults.	--	\$40 million (GENERAL FUND)
Limit Medi-Cal Estate Recovery to the federally required minimum of long-term care services and eliminate recovery from the estate of the deceased beneficiary's surviving spouse.	--	--
Restore Medi-Cal Adult Dental Benefits. Only some of the dental benefits eliminated in the 2009 budget were restored in the 2013-14 budget. The Senate supports full restoration and an increase in the dental anesthesia rate to provide rate parity between general anesthesia and dental anesthesia providers.	--	\$66.8 mil (GF); Effective date: 1/1/16
Restore Critical Medi-Cal Benefits. The Governor's budget continues cuts made in the 2009 recession, including acupuncture, audiology, chiropractic, incontinence creams and washes, optician and optical labs, podiatry, and speech therapy. The Conference Committee voted to restore all benefits except for chiropractic.	--	\$15 mil (GF)
Increase Medi-Cal Provider Rates. The Governor's Budget maintains the 10% provider rate cut adopted in 2011. Some Medi-Cal patients face access challenges that are likely related to low reimbursement rates--some of the lowest in the nation. The Conference Committee adopted a compromise where dental provider rates will be restored effective July 1, 2015 (\$15M GF), and rates for all other providers will be restored effective April 1, 2016 (\$21.6M GF). In addition, the retroactive recoupment for DP-SNFs will be forgiven.	--	\$21.6 mil (GF) Effective date: 4/1/16
Eliminate Rate Reductions for Dental Providers. Given disparities in access to dental care for Medi-Cal patients, the Senate has identified a particular need to eliminate these reductions.	--	\$15 mil (GF) Effective date: 7/1/15
Investments in Public Health Programs: The Conference Committee adopted funding for Hepatitis C (HCV) Linkage to Care Projects (\$2M); Dental Disease Prevention Program (\$3.2M); Hepatitis C (HCV) Rapid Testing Kits (\$600,000); and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Access and Outreach Program (\$2.2M).	--	\$8 mil <i>combined</i>