

HEALTH ACCESS

Protecting
& Continuing
California's
Progress

30th Anniversary Event
DECEMBER 13, 2016



To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Health Access California and Health Access Foundation in 2017, we scheduled our event right after the election, to give us a platform to launch our work in the new year with a clear sense of the challenges and opportunities in a new political landscape. That goal is more important now: the November election results—and the very real threats that have emerged to Medicaid, Medicare, and Obamacare—may make 2017 the most impactful of any of our past 30 years.

The post-election context doesn't diminish the reason to celebrate the progress we've made—in fact, it is now more essential than ever to highlight these hard-won victories for California consumers, if only to signify what is at stake. Our accomplishments over the past 30 years as a coalition and community are fueled by individual Californians getting involved and in some cases telling their own experience with the health system (a sample of whom we will honor today). Our victories are significant, from preventing budget cuts and winning investments in public health, to patient protections such as the HMO Patients' Bill of Rights and the Hospital Fair Pricing Act. We also worked hard to oversee the successful passage, implementation and improvement of the Affordable Care Act, which has cut the number of uninsured by more than half—the largest drop in the uninsured rate in the nation, according to the most recent Census figures.

Even a review of the past year or two merits a significant spotlight: expansion of coverage to all California children regardless of immigration status, and an innovative waiver to similarly open up Covered California; various counties instituting reforms toward a more inclusive and smarter safety-net; new patient protections against unfair out-of-pocket costs, from surprise medical bills to extreme prescription drug cost-sharing; new oversight over health plans to ensure timely access, network adequacy, and accurate and updated provider directories; new resources for Medi-Cal through a MCO tax, a new Medicaid waiver, and voter approval of ballot initiatives extending upper-income tax brackets and approving a tobacco tax—capping a year where the legislature passed the strongest tobacco control policies in a generation including raising the smoking age and regulating e-cigarettes.

While not all of these victories are at risk, many are in the new political context, which threatens to roll back the advances made not just in the last five or ten years with the ACA, but the last 30 or 50 with the HMO Patients' Bill of Rights and Medi-Cal. Our goal is to protect this progress and continue California's leadership on coverage, on costs, on care, and on consumer protections. While we re-engage federal #Fight4OurHealth efforts, we will continue with our policy agenda of state legislative, budget, and administrative advocacy, to secure and expand coverage, to protect consumers and keep the health industry accountable, and to encourage a healthier California.

As we review the timeline in this program of the history of Health Access and of health reform more broadly, we see unmistakable progress, even though we've seen dark days before—massive budget deficits and awful cuts, ballot measures lost by the closest of margins, and major health reform proposals stalled, vetoed, even repealed at the ballot box. But part of our success over the years was learning how to prevent the worst, and still continue to build toward the best version of what our health system should be. We only lose when we give up.

It's a lesson I have learned again and again in the fifteen years that I have been privileged to serve as Executive Director of Health Access, working with an amazing staff, board, and health policy and advocacy community. Together, we have made a real improvement in Californian's coverage and care—let's celebrate and protect this progress today, and continue that leadership in the years ahead.

Sincerely thankful and ready for the fight,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Wright".

Anthony Wright
Executive Director

EVENT SPONSORS

Primary:



Lead:



Benefactor:



Partner:



Supporter:

Joan Pirkle Smith & Kurtwood Smith

Organizational:

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
California Coverage and Health Initiatives
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Labor Federation
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California Partnership
California Planned Parenthood Education Fund
California Teachers Association
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare
Kaufman Campaign Consultants, Inc.
PICO California

Friend:

California Budget & Policy Center
Dr. Alice Hm Chen
The Children's Partnership

LifeLong Medical Care
Our Family Coalition - LGBTQ Family Advocacy
Terri Cowger Hill, Cowger & Associates

SYMPOSIUM: 1-5 PM

1-1:45pm

Welcome:

Joan Pirkle Smith, Chair, Health Access California Board of Directors

Opening Remarks:

Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Health Access California and Health Access Foundation

Featured Speakers:

The Honorable Senator Dr. Ed Hernández, O.D., Chair, Senate Health Committee

The Honorable Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

1:45-3pm

Panel Discussion and Q&A:

The New Context: Protecting and Ensuring Access & Affordability

Moderator: Tam Ma, Legal and Policy Director, Health Access

- Alma Hernández, Executive Director, SEIU State Council
- Dr. Sandra R. Hernández, President & CEO, California Health Care Foundation
- Edwin Park, Vice President for Health Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Amanda Wallner, Director, California LGBT Health & Human Services Network

Break

3:15-3:45pm

Reconvene:

Marty Lynch, Chair, Health Access Foundation Board of Directors

Keynote:

Secretary Diana S. Dooley, California Health and Human Services Agency

3:45pm - 5pm

Panel Discussion and Q&A:

Defense and Offense: Protecting Consumers & Advancing a Healthier and Equitable California

Moderator: Daniel Zingale, Senior Vice President of Healthy California, The California Endowment

- Peter Lee, Executive Director, Covered California
- Sarah de Guia, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- Sara Flocks, Policy Coordinator, California Labor Federation
- Ronald Coleman, Government Affairs Manager, California Immigrant Policy Center

RECEPTION: 5-7PM

HEALTH ACCESS CALIFORNIA HEALTH ACCESS FOUNDATION 30 YEARS

Health Access California is the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, advocating for the goal of quality, affordable health care for all Californians.



Health Access Foundation undertakes coalition organizing, public education, applied research, and policy analysis and advocacy, to advance reforms to benefit California's health care consumers, both insured and uninsured.

Health Access seeks to secure and expand coverage, including by protecting and improving Medi-Cal, Medicare, Covered California, the Affordable Care Act and other health reforms, and extending access and affordability help to all Californians; to protect patients, through industry oversight of both insurers and providers, to ensure care and coverage, and control costs, improve quality and value and advance equity; and to encourage a healthier California, including investing in public health and our safety net through budget advocacy and raising revenue; and promoting prevention and seeking a stronger social contract beyond health care.

Health Access represent consumers—insured, uninsured, under-insured—at the California Legislature, Congress, at administrative and regulatory agencies, in the media, and in public forums. The health care industry, from insurers to drug companies to doctors and hospitals, are well-represented at the Capitol. Health Access ensures that health care consumers are also represented in these critical policy discussions. Health Access has a long history of fighting—and often winning—policy battles against HMOs that deny care, prescription drug companies that price-gouge, providers that overcharge the uninsured, as well as employers that don't provide health care for their workers.

Health Access advances policy change because we organize the power of individuals, organizations, and communities together—whether that power comes from unique policy expertise, personal experiences, or popular sentiment. Health Access provides a bridge between the grassroots and senior policy levels to effectively advocate for substantive reforms; between different levels and agencies of government, from legislative to administrative; and between different types of organizations and communities to work for a common purpose.

Health Access works with a broad coalition of dozens of member organizations representing communities of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, children, seniors, people of faith, labor, and working families. As important as our policy goals, Health Access seeks to build our coalition, our individual members' and allies' ability to engage effectively in advocacy on health issues, our collective power as a coalition, and our overall capacity for future fights and campaigns.

HEALTH ACCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 30 YEARS ADVOCATING FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

Since our founding thirty years ago, we have established an impressive track record of working to expand access to health care, secure critical consumer protections against industry abuses, and reform our health system.

Expanded Health Coverage and Advanced Health Reform

Over many years, Health Access California has advanced the vision and movement for universal health care by leading and supporting campaigns and coalitions to win comprehensive health reform—each effort bringing the state and national conversation closer to the overall goal. This includes our work, from our founding to the present, to implement and improve on the Affordable Care Act, but also for single-payer proposals, universal children’s coverage, expansions of employer-based coverage, Healthy San Francisco, and recent #Health4All efforts at the county, state, and federal levels to cover all Californians regardless of immigration status.

Health Access led California grassroots and policy advocacy efforts to secure passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the most significant overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. Leading the state’s Health Care for America Now campaign, our coalition successfully worked to ensure that all Democratic members of California’s congressional delegation voted for the ACA, and defended the law once enacted, a law, which continues to have the support of a majority of Californians. Since passage of the ACA in 2010, Health Access has played a pivotal role in California’s work to:

- **Implement and improve upon the ACA in California**, leading a consumer coalition, working with the California State Legislature and state agencies, to pass several dozen laws to establish essential health benefits, rate review, new and broader oversight over health insurers, improved consumer assistance programs, and streamlined enrollment into health care programs.
- **Establish Covered California and its groundbreaking pro-consumer policies**. Helped pass the first-in-the-nation legislation to establish California’s health insurance marketplace, which now covers 1.5 million Californians. We fought to ensure Covered California could use its bargaining power to select qualified plans based on value, and then to urge the exchange to use this “active purchaser” power to negotiate for the best rates, standardize and design consumer-friendly benefits, and drive delivery reforms for cost, quality, value, and equity.
- **Push for early implementation of the ACA**, where California actively pursued opportunities to expand coverage for residents, conducted outreach and enrollment to bring people into new coverage options, and organized systems to deliver care. This includes early adoption of the maternity coverage mandate, access to coverage for children with pre-existing conditions, and early Medi-Cal expansion through county Low-Income Health Programs.
- **Ensure health reform included many of California’s diverse communities**, by advocating for a Medi-Cal expansion that included “deferred action” immigrants, and resources to support enrollment assistance programs focused on LGBT communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color. We also collaborated with allies to guarantee that the state collects data on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as disaggregated Asian/Pacific Islander demographic data, crucial for addressing health disparities.

Even as the ACA helped reduce the uninsured rate in California by more than half, Health Access continued to expand coverage to the remaining uninsured, with our efforts to:

- **Win the guarantee of affordable coverage for all California children regardless of immigration status**, a victory from the ongoing **Health4All campaign** that Health Access co-chairs to ensure all Californians have access to health coverage, including undocumented immigrants. Another recent victory is the development and submission to the federal government of a “1332 waiver” to open Covered California to all who wish to buy unsubsidized coverage.
- **Partner with local advocates to expand county-based care** for hundreds of thousands of Californians. We provided technical assistance, organizing support, and policy advocacy to help establish Healthy San Francisco and California’s early expansion of Medi-Cal for over 500,000 Californians under the Low-Income Health Programs—as well as, more recently, several counties adopting more inclusive and smarter safety-net programs, including My Health LA, Contra Costa Cares, and the County Medical Services Program’s (CMSP) Primary Care Benefit, which benefits uninsured Californians in 35 counties. We also successfully advocated for a Medicaid waiver and Global Payment Program to encourage counties to take additional steps to cover the remaining uninsured.

Fought Budget Cuts and Won Improvements in Public Health

Health Access worked to successfully prevent budget cuts and win restorations and investments in Medi-Cal and other public health programs. During the Great Recession, we co-led various budget coalitions and specific campaigns to oppose budget cuts to health care programs proposed by various Governors that would have denied millions of Californians health care coverage, and caused millions more to suffer increased costs. In recent years, we have successfully advocated for the restoration of some of the specific cuts made to Medi-Cal, dental care, and public health programs, and for additional revenues (such as Proposition 30) and resources (from MCO and hospital fees to the Medicaid waivers with the federal government) to invest in critical health programs.

In addition to investments, Health Access has supported several public health efforts, from helping craft Let’s Get Healthy California metrics for a healthier and more equitable state, to assisting in the effort to pass new tobacco control policies including raising the smoking age and regulating e-cigarettes.

Won Patient Protections

In its role as the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, Health Access:

- **Fought for and won the HMO Patient Bill of Rights** in 1995-2000, a legislative package of two dozen managed care consumer protections, that created the Department of Managed Health Care, allows patients to get an independent review of any HMO denial of care or coverage, requires HMOs to pay for second opinions on some treatments, cover the testing and treatment of breast cancer, pay for contraceptives and expand coverage for serious mental illnesses.
- **Secured new oversight to help consumers get the care they need when they need it.** Health Access-sponsored legislation requires all health plans to give access to medically necessary prescription drugs, and timely access to care with appointment wait time standards, strengthened oversight over health plan networks, and implemented new standards for accurate and updated provider directories.
- **Advanced language access to care** both through supporting legislation and oversight with partner organizations, and pioneering video medical interpretation (VMI) in public hospitals to show the feasibility of fully serving California’s multi-lingual patient population, including spinning off the Health Care Interpreter Network, and other projects in San Francisco and Alameda counties.

- **Strengthened oversight over consumer assistance programs** by revamping the work of the Office of the Patient Advocate, implementing new transparency and oversight rules over state agencies who handle consumer calls and complaints.

Saved Consumers Money and Kept the Health Industry Accountable

Many Californians can say that they have benefited directly because of the fact that Health Access:

- **Prevented hospitals from overcharging the uninsured**, by passing the first-in-the-nation Hospital Fair Pricing Act so the uninsured are not price-gouged by hospitals collecting 3 to 4 times what an insurer pays for the same treatment and passed a companion bill to limit what ER doctors charge the uninsured.
- **Protected consumers from unfair out-of-pocket costs, including surprise medical bills** when patients go to in-network hospitals and facilities but get seen by out-of-network doctors. Other Health Access legislation passed recently put caps on specialty drug cost-sharing, limited “junk” insurance offered by employers, and prevented double deductibles in family coverage.
- **Exposed unjustified rates by health insurers** by requiring advance notice of rate changes, public rate filings and regulatory rate review. Soon to be enacted Health Access legislation requires health plans to notify consumers of unjustified rates to allow consumers to shop around, and prohibits mid-year increases for premiums or cost-sharing.
- **Secured official opposition or key conditions on health industry mergers**, as we represented consumers in regulatory oversight of health insurer and nonprofit hospital mergers. Won conditions on hospital mergers to maintain community services, and on several health plan mergers to ensure insurers abide by consumer protections, improve quality ratings and customer service, and invest in needed health initiatives.
- **Fought for more affordable prescription drug prices**, through several legislative campaigns and a 2005 ballot initiative that was defeated by Pharma’s \$80 million opposition. Won passage of a prescription drug discount program (never implemented due to the budget crisis) that would have used the government’s negotiating power to offer more affordable medications for the uninsured.

HEALTH ACCESS HISTORY: A 30-YEAR TIMELINE

History of Health Reform in California

Health Access History

1985-87

Coalition fights “patient dumping” by hospitals and ER physicians who deny emergency care to uninsured patients, putting in place state policies that led to the federal EMTALA law.

Gov. Deukmejian proposes 10% cut to base funding of Medi-Cal: no grassroots coalition capacity to fight back.

1987

Gov. Deukmejian signs legislation penalizing patient dumping, as well as to fund physicians who provide emergency care to the uninsured (the Maddy Fund).

Health Access California organized out of coalition that fought patient dumping.

Health Access Foundation also founded.

1987-91

Numerous measures like AB 328 (1989-90), AB 14 (1991-92), and AB 16 (1993-94) on expanding access proposed by Assm. Burt Margolin, and supported by Health Access California, including employer “pay or play.” “BabyCal” and “KidCal” proposed.

Task Force out of AB 350 (Brown/Maddy) recommends an employer mandate at end of Deukmejian Administration.

A version of Insurance Commissioner Garamendi’s “managed competition” plan passes, but is vetoed by Gov. Wilson.

Lois Salisbury serves full-time as first chair of Health Access.

Maryann O’Sullivan serves as founding Executive Director.

Health Access develops health policy proposals, including single-payer.

1992

Legislative proposals, including SB 308 (Petris), a single-payer proposal, and “KidCal” (Margolin), stall.

California expands coverage for pregnant women to twice the poverty level.

Small group underwriting reforms AB 1672 (Margolin) pass, including a purchasing pool, guaranteed issue, and modified community rating.

Prop. 166, an employer mandate supported by California Medical Association, and opposed broadly including by Health Access, fails with 32%

	History of Health Reform in California	Health Access History
1993	President Bill Clinton sworn in. Clinton health plan debated in Congress.	Maria Ferrer becomes executive director.
1994	<p>Clinton health plan fails in Congress.</p> <p><i>Prop. 186</i>, a single-payer initiative supported by Health Access California and others, fails with 27%. Democrats also lose Congress. Anti-immigrant <i>Prop. 187</i> passes.</p> <p>As Blue Cross of California converts from non-profit to for-profit, state regulators and advocates insist on protecting charitable assets. Two conversion foundations are created: the California Endowment and California HealthCare Foundation.</p>	Bruce Livingston becomes executive director.
1995	Gov. Wilson proposes elimination of most state-funded services for undocumented immigrants, including prenatal care, kidney dialysis and all other health services.	Beth Capell, a founding board member, joins Health Access as contract lobbyist.
1996	<i>Prop. 214</i> and <i>Prop. 216</i> , HMO reforms, supported by consumer groups and opposed by insurers, fail with 42% and 39%.	Health Access joins others groups around the country to protect and expand Medicare and stop privatization.
1997-98	<p>State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) passes. California creates Healthy Families (<i>Villaraigosa</i>), with support from children's groups and Health Access after key amendments.</p> <p>Gov. Pete Wilson proposes HMO reform task force, vetoes all HMO reform bills. Attempts to override Wilson's vetoes fail.</p> <p>HMO reform an election year issue in key races.</p>	Health Access California and others announce HMO Patient Bill of Rights legislative package in Jan 1997, sponsors 30-50 bills/year.
1999	<p>Newly-elected Gov. Gray Davis signs 21-bill HMO reform package, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of Criteria for Denial of Care/Utilization Review SB 59 (Perata) • Guaranteed Second Opinion AB 12 (Davis) • Independent Medical Review, AB 55 (Migden) & SB 189 (Schiff) • Right to Sue SB 21 (Figueroa) 	<p>Melinda Paras becomes executive director.</p> <p>Video Medical Interpretation project started to increase language access in CA public hospitals and show viability overall.</p>

1999 (CONT.)

History of Health Reform in California

- Regulation of Medical Groups, SB 260 (Speier)
- Mental Health Parity, AB 88 (Thomson)
- Coverage of Diabetes Supplies, SB 64 (Solis) & Contraceptives AB 39 (Hertzberg) & SB 41 (Speier)
- Creation of Department of Managed Health Care & Office of Patient Advocate, AB 78 (Gallegos)

Health Access History

2000-01

New efforts to streamline Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

First measure to prevent hospital overcharging of the uninsured is introduced.

Health Care Options Project SB 480 (Solis) re-starts health reform debate.

Health Access begins new efforts to expand coverage in California.

Early adoption of posting regular updates via the Health Access Blog, still continually published.

2002-03

Efforts to expand HMO Patient Bill of Rights continues with passage of:

- SB 842 (Speier): sets standards for drug coverage.
- AB 2179 (Cohn): timely access to care.
- SB 853 (Escutia): requires language access.

After a year and a half serving as organizing director, **Anthony Wright** becomes executive director in mid-2002.

Health Access organizes against budget cuts.

2003-04

Single-payer health coverage re-enters legislative debate with SB 921 (Kuehl).

Employer coverage expansion SB 2 (Burton) passes, signed by Gov. Davis. Supported by Cal. Labor Federation, CMA, Health Access and others.

Governor Davis recalled; Governor Schwarzenegger elected.

Prop. 72, referendum on SB 2, opposed by the Chamber of Commerce and CA Restaurant Association, gets 49.2%, repeals law.

Health Access helps lead broad-based efforts at health reforms on multiple tracks, including employer mandates but also single-payer, public program expansions, etc.

Health Access helps lead effort on Prop. 56 to lower threshold to pass budgets and taxes, which fails with 34% of the vote.

History of Health Reform in California

2005

Schwarzenegger holds special election with several proposals, all of which fail, including *Prop. 76* spending cap.

AB 356 (Chan) was signed into law to provide disclosures to consumers about both reasons for pre-existing condition denials and rate increases. Would later reveal infamous Anthem Blue Cross 39% rate increase filing in 2010.

AB 772 (Chan), universal children's coverage, providing coverage for undocumented children vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

2006

Major victories:

- **AB 774 (Chan)**, first-in-nation protections to prevent hospitals overcharging the uninsured, signed into law after a five year campaign.
- **AB 2911 (Núñez/Perata)**, to negotiate for better drug discounts, signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger (but never implemented due to budget crisis).
- SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano pursues local reform; Mayor Gavin Newsom creates task force, both leading to unanimous passage of **Healthy San Francisco**.
- **SB 840 (Kuehl)** universal single-payer bill (latest iteration from SB 921 in 2003), passed full legislature for first time. Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoes.

Prop. 86, a tobacco tax to fund emergency rooms and children's coverage, fails with 48.2%

2007-08

Gov. Schwarzenegger proposes new health reform package and designates 2007 as "Year of Health Reform." **ABx1 1 (Núñez/Schwarzenegger)**, comprehensive health reform proposal, stalls in Senate Health Committee in Jan. 2008

President Barack Obama elected, with mandate on health reform.

Health Access History

Health Access California with "OurRx" coalition, after years of working on legislation, sponsor *Prop. 79*, to win drug discounts. PhRMA opposes with \$80 million, and sponsors competing *Prop. 78*. Both fail with 39% and 42%.

HealthIOU initiative starts to implement new laws, sponsored by Health Access California, providing consumer protections against uninsured paying more for drugs and hospital care. Launches www.HospitalBillHelp.org

Health Access and "It's Our Healthcare" coalition work to advance both comprehensive and specific health reforms.

Health Access gets dozens of pledges from Congressional representatives to pursue federal health reform.

TIMELINE

2009-10

History of Health Reform in California

With leadership from President Obama, and California Congressional leaders (including Speaker Nancy Pelosi, key committee chairs Waxman, Miller, and Stark, and many others), the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is enacted.**

Major budget crisis re-emerges. Major budget cuts include elimination of dental and other benefits in Medi-Cal, and 10% provider rate cuts.

Health Access History

Health Access leads the California campaign for Health Care for America Now (HCAN) to pass the Affordable Care Act. All California Democrats vote for “Obamacare.”

Health Access and others fight health care budget cuts.

2010

California passes key bills to adopt many of the consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, including:

- AB 1602 (Perez) & SB 900 (Alquist) establish **first-in-the-nation post-reform Health Benefits Exchange.**
- SB 1163 (Leno) institutes **rate review** in California.
- AB 2244 (Feuer) ensures **access and affordability for coverage for children with pre-existing conditions.**
- AB 2345 (De La Torre) requires coverage of preventive services and AB 2470 (De La Torre) prevents rescissions.
- AB 342 (Price) allows young people to stay on parents' coverage until age 26.
- SB51 (Alquist) requires medical loss ratio and outlaws annual and lifetime limits.

Also: AB 1503 (Lieu) bill passes to protect uninsured from ER doctor overcharges.

California voters pass *Prop. 25*, to pass state budgets by a simple majority, rather than 66%.

Governor Jerry Brown elected.

Health Access commits to a multi-year effort, starting with Governor Schwarzenegger and extending through Governor Brown, to implement and improve upon the federal health law.

2011

While dealing with massive budget deficit, newly elected Governor Brown continues California implementation of health reform, with bills on improving consumer assistance SB 922 (Monning), streamlining eligibility and enrollment AB 1296 (Bonilla), and instituting the medical loss ratio SB 51 (Alquist).

California passes SB 222 (Evans/Alquist) and AB 210 (Hernandez), a long-sought mandate to require maternity coverage in all plans, 18 months earlier than required under federal law's essential benefit protections.

History of Health Reform in California

2012

Governor Brown signs more bills implementing the Affordable Care Act, including ones setting standards for essential health benefits, AB 1453 (Monning) & SB 951 (Hernandez), the new rules for small group coverage AB 1083 (Monning), and new notice for coverage options during life changes AB 792 (Bonilla).

Over 50 counties start Low-Income Health Programs (LIHPs), enrolling over 550,000 Californians—the overwhelming number of early Medicaid expansions nationally.

Proposed tobacco tax *Prop. 29* fails by an incredibly close margin, 49.9% of the vote.

Prop. 30 passes, which along with previous steep budget cuts and a recovering economy, promises to end a decade of budget deficits and crises.

President Obama re-elected, with Democrats gaining seats in the U.S. House and Senate, continuing the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, especially after being upheld by the Supreme Court.

2013

In special legislative session, California officially implements and improves upon the ACA's major planks, including instituting the individual insurance market reforms such as the ban on pre-existing conditions AB 1x2 (Pan) & SB 1x2 (Hernandez), and the Medi-Cal expansion, AB 1x1 (Perez) & SB 1x1 (Hernandez/Steinberg).

Adult dental benefits partially restored in the state budget.

2014

California begins its implementation of the ACA, launching coverage through Covered California and the Medi-Cal expansion; new consumer protections and market rules also take effect. Millions of Californians gain coverage through Medi-Cal and Covered California.

Through SB 964 (Hernandez), California requires annual surveys of health plan network adequacy and timely access.

Health Access History

Health Access agrees to host the CA LGBT HHS Network, with renewed focus on making sure ACA implementation is inclusive of the LGBT community.

After a decade of work, Health Access spins off the last part of its video medical interpretation (VMI) project, now in place in public hospital systems throughout California.

Health Access co-leads “Save Our Safety Net” efforts with counties, CSAC, and SEIU to expand Medi-Cal while preserving funds for public hospitals and clinics.

Beth Abbott, longtime Director of Administrative Advocacy for Health Access, appointed by Governor Brown to be Director of the Office of the Patient Advocate.

TIMELINE

2014 (CONT.)

History of Health Reform in California

Prop. 45, to institute health insurance rate regulation in California fails with 41% of the vote.

Governor Jerry Brown is re-elected.

Health Access History

2015-16

California takes additional steps to #Health4All, including undocumented immigrants:

- Expansion of Medi-Cal coverage for all children, SB 4 (Lara)/AB 75.
- Seeking a waiver to open up Covered California, SB 10 (Lara)
- Having multiple counties expand eligibility for safety-net services, from 9 to 47.

The Legislature passes new protections against unfair health care costs, sponsored by Health Access, including:

- Protections against surprise medical bills, AB 72 (Bonta, Wood, et. al.)
- Caps on extreme prescription drug cost-sharing, AB 339, (Gordon)
- Prohibition on “junk” employer-based coverage, AB 2088 (R. Hernandez)
- Requirement on accurate & updated provider directories, so patients don’t end up out-of-network SB 137 (Ed Hernandez)
- Notice of unreasonable rate increases and opportunity to shop for other coverage SB 908 (Ed Hernandez).

Improvements in Medi-Cal include a new “Medi-Cal 2020” waiver, a revamped MCO tax, and key investments, including the limiting of estate recovery.

In special session, the Legislature passes the strongest tobacco control package in a generation, raising the smoking age to 21 and regulating e-cigarettes.

California voters support new revenues by wide margins, including *Prop. 55 (upper-income tax extension)* and *Prop. 56 (tobacco tax)*.

Donald Trump is elected President.

With the CA Immigrant Policy Center, Health Access co-chairs the #Health4All coalition of over 100 partner organizations to win coverage for all Californians regardless of immigration status.

Health Access expands its MergerWatch oversight over several hospital and health plan acquisitions in the state, winning key conditions.

Branching out to public health issues, Health Access actively works on the Save Lives campaign for greater tobacco regulation and taxation.

2017

GOP control of the White House and Congress threatens the progress made and the coverage provided under Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act.

With national partners, Health Access and allies immediately mobilize campaign in California to protect health care.



RONALD COLEMAN

Government Affairs Manager, California Immigrant Policy Center

Ronald Coleman is CIPC's Government Affairs Manager based in Sacramento. Formerly, Ronald was the Legislative and Policy Director for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and most recently with the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE). He has over 10 years experience advocating at the local, state, and national level on a wide-range of issues to advance policy interests of low income communities, working families, immigrants, and communities of color. Ronald, who is also a lawyer, has received his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center, and his BA in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans.



SARAH DE GUIA

Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Sarah de Guia is the Executive Director of the Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), a multicultural health advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health of communities of color in California. Sarah has over a decade of experience advocating for access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, advancing women's reproductive justice, and promoting immigrants' rights. Sarah currently serves as an advisory board member of the California Health Interview Survey and the Department of Health Care Services' Stakeholder Committee.

Previously, Sarah held the position of CPEHN's Director of Government Affairs, where she spearheaded the organization's legislative work and successfully achieved passage of eight legislative proposals on issues ranging from improving

language access to "health in all policies" in state planning. Previously Sarah worked as the Health Program Manager with Latino Issues Forum and as Legislative Analyst with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Sarah served as a mentor with the Women's Policy Institute from 2012-2014, a legislative training program for women leaders, and is a 2014 graduate of CompassPoint's Next Generation Leaders of Color program. Sarah earned her Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley in Ethnic Studies and Public Policy.

SPEAKERS



SECRETARY DIANA S. DOOLEY

California Health and Human Services Agency

Diana Dooley was appointed Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency in December 2010 by Governor Jerry Brown. She leads 13 state departments within the Agency, chairs Covered California (the Health Benefit Exchange) and serves as chair or member of numerous other boards and commissions. Previously, Dooley was President and CEO of the California Children's Hospital Association. Dooley began her career as an analyst for the State and in 1975, she was appointed to the staff of Governor Jerry Brown for whom she served as Legislative Secretary and Special Assistant until the end of his term in 1983. Before becoming an attorney in 1995, she owned a public relations and advertising agency. Dooley moved into health care in 2000 when she left her private law practice to serve as General Counsel and Vice President at Valley Children's Hospital. She received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno in 1972 and her law degree from San Joaquin College of Law in 1995. She is married to Dan Dooley and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren.



SARA FLOCKS

Policy Coordinator, California Labor Federation

Sara Flocks is the Policy Coordinator at the California Labor Federation, which represents 2 million union members and their families in California. She specializes in health care policy and works closely with union affiliates to win and maintain affordable, high-quality health coverage for union members and all Californians. Before coming to the Labor Federation in 2010, Sara was the director of a worker center for low-wage retail and restaurant workers in San Francisco where she helped develop and pass the city-wide minimum wage increase and San Francisco's innovative paid sick leave ordinance.



ALMA HERNÁNDEZ

Executive Director, SEIU California

Alma Hernández is the Executive Director for SEIU California, an organization dedicated to electing candidates and passing policies that benefit SEIU's 700,000 members and their families in California. SEIU represents janitors, home care workers, social workers, professors, school workers, health care workers, and city, county, and state workers. It is the largest labor union in the state and has been a powerful political voice in California for working people. Ms. Hernández is the first Latina to occupy the role of Executive Director.

Ms. Hernández' life path is truly a story of the California Dream. Her parents immigrated to California from Mexico in search of a better future for themselves and their family and worked in the fields of Central California before finding other work in the Central Valley's agricultural sector.

Ms. Hernández attended public schools in Keyes, California. She went on to graduate from UC Berkeley with honors and political and organizing skills sharpened through her leadership of MeCHA.

From an early age, she was fascinated with politics and government and immediately after college, she spent 5 years as a staff person in the California legislature. She joined SEIU in 2010 and is inspired on behalf of her parents and family to further the mission of the union to provide dignity and a voice for working people. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, she served the organization as Political Director.



SENATOR DR. ED HERNÁNDEZ, O.D.

Chair, Senate Health Committee

Dr. Ed Hernández had one goal as a young man – to serve the health care needs of the community he came from. "Dr. Ed," as he is known to his patients, has spent his life bringing quality eye care to predominantly low-income communities, first running for office to improve his community's access to healthcare.

His parents instilled in him the value of hard work, the importance of family and that education is society's greatest equalizer. Having an education allowed him to pursue his goal to provide care to the most vulnerable people.

Since being elected to the Assembly in 2006 and the Senate in 2010, he has been a healthcare champion and educational advocate. Dr. Ed implemented federal health care reform – helping expand access to affordable health care, controlling costs and improving the network of providers so people can get the quality care they need. He has helped expand educational opportunities to qualified students often overlooked by public schools and universities.

Dr. Ed was raised in the predominately Latino, working-class community of La Puente. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and then was awarded a scholarship to study optometry at Indiana University. He met his wife in optometry school and returned home to open their first practice in his hometown of La Puente. He has two daughters, Valerie and Jennifer, and three grandchildren.

He proudly represents the 22nd Senate District, which encompasses the cities and communities of the San Gabriel Valley, which include: Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, South San Gabriel, Rosemead, El Monte, South El Monte, Baldwin Park, Irwindale, Industry, Avocado Heights, La Puente, Valinda, West Covina, Vincent, Azusa, Citrus, Covina, Temple City, Arcadia and surrounding neighborhoods.

SPEAKERS



DR. SANDRA R. HERNÁNDEZ

President & CEO, California Health Care Foundation

Dr. Sandra R. Hernández has been president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation since January 2014. CHCF is an independent foundation with assets of more than \$700 million, headquartered in Oakland, California, and dedicated to making health care work for all Californians, especially low-income and underserved populations.

Prior to joining CHCF, Sandra was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, which she led for 16 years. She previously served as director of public health for the City and County of San Francisco. She also co-chaired San Francisco's Universal Healthcare Council, which designed Healthy San Francisco, an innovative health access program for the uninsured.

Sandra is an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine. She practiced at San Francisco General Hospital in the AIDS clinic from 1984 to 2016. She served on the External Advisory Committee at the Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences in 2016. She currently serves on the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Advisory Council at UC Davis and the UC Regents Committee on Health Services.

She is a graduate of Yale University, the Tufts School of Medicine, and the certificate program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



SENATOR RICARDO LARA

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) represents the Southeast Los Angeles County cities of the 33rd Senate District. Raised in a blue collar immigrant household, Ricardo knows first-hand the challenges facing working families and is committed to improving the quality of life for all Californians.

Ricardo chairs the powerful Appropriations Committee and serves as a member of the Energy, Utilities and Communications, Governance and Finance, Governmental Organization, and Banking and Financial Institutions committees.

A champion for educational equity, civil rights and immigrant rights, Ricardo champions legislation that improves the quality of life for vulnerable communities. He has authored several first-in-the nation laws that recognize and invest in immigrant communities such as the California DREAM Loan Program, which helps undocumented students apply for loans to complete their higher education goals.

Under his leadership as Chair of the Latino Caucus, the legislature passed AB60 to allow undocumented Californians to obtain driver's licenses. In the summer of 2014, he organized a fact-finding delegation to visit the Central American unaccompanied minors being held in Ventura County and was instrumental in securing \$3 million to be directed toward non-profit organizations providing legal representation to these children.

Ricardo's record in public service has been recognized at the local, state and national levels. President Barack Obama awarded him a "Champion of Change" at the White House and The Los Angeles Times named Ricardo the "Point man in the push for immigrant rights" in California. Upon winning his election in 2012, he made history by becoming the first openly gay person of color elected to the California Senate.



PETER V. LEE

Executive Director, Covered California

Peter V. Lee is the executive director of Covered California, the first health exchange created after enactment of the Affordable Care Act. Since joining Covered California in 2011, Lee oversaw the creation and launch of the Covered California brand as well as an on-line platform that allows consumers to shop for and buy affordable health insurance. In the first year, Covered California enrolled 1.4 million people -- more than any other exchange in the nation.

With a \$300 million budget and more than 1,000 employees, Lee oversees negotiations with health plans to bring quality, affordable health insurance products to market as well as outreach and marketing efforts to promote enrollment. Increasingly, Lee is working to advance the broader mission Covered California: improving health care quality, lowering costs and reducing health disparities.

Prior to joining the exchange, Lee held leadership positions in Washington, D.C. in the Obama Administration working on health care delivery reform and quality improvement as the Director of Delivery System Reform for the Office of Health Reform for Health and Human Services and Deputy Director for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Center for Health Care Rights, a consumer advocacy organization based in Los Angeles, and Director of Programs for the National AIDS Network, working on health care issues in Washington, D.C. in the 1980s.

Lee received his law degree from the University of Southern California and his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

EDWIN PARK

Vice President for Health Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Edwin Park is Vice President for Health Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization based in Washington D.C. that focuses on fiscal policy and government policies affecting low- and moderate-income individuals and families at both the federal and state levels.

At the Center, he co-directs the Health Policy Department, with his primary areas of expertise in the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare. He also analyzes tax policies related to health care, private health insurance markets, and policies related to prescription drugs.

He has testified before Congress, been interviewed by media outlets such as National Public Radio and CNBC, and has been cited in numerous publications including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Prior to coming to the Center in 2001, he served as the health policy advisor for the National Economic Council at the White House. He also has worked as a Medicaid professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and as an attorney in private practice specializing in health law.

He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and also serves on the Advisory Council for the Center for Health and Wellbeing at Princeton University.

He has a J.D., with high honors, from Harvard Law School and an A.B. in Public and International Affairs, with highest honors, from Princeton University.

SPEAKERS



DANIEL ZINGALE

**Senior Vice President of Healthy California,
The California Endowment**

Daniel Zingale joined the California Endowment as Senior Vice President of Healthy California in January 2009. Prior to that, he served as chief of staff to Maria Shriver and senior advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Zingale also worked for the previous California Governor Gray Davis as Secretary of the Cabinet and as Chief of Staff to Davis in the Office of the California Controller. He was also the Executive Director of AIDS Action in Washington, D.C. and political director of the Human Rights Campaign. As founding director of the California Department of Managed Health Care, Zingale was the first “HMO czar” in the nation. He is a former member of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board and currently serves on the California Commission on the Status of Women.



1961 - 2014 Richard (Rick) Pavich

Rick had been our Director of Operations and Development for almost nine years, joining Health Access in 2005. In that role, he made the trains run on time at Health Access – from developing budgets, negotiating with vendors, filing grant proposals, running our development program, negotiating leases for our three offices and making sure they were stocked and had what they needed to do their jobs. Rick organized our 20th and 25th anniversary celebrations. We greatly valued his integrity, work ethic, professionalism, commitment, and attention to detail; his support of our work in ways big and small.

We were hugely fortunate to benefit from his extensive nonprofit experience with advocacy and political organizations. He began his career in Washington, DC, as a fundraiser for nonprofits such as Voters for Choice, the Human Rights Campaign, and World Wildlife Fund. In 1998, Rick came to California to become the Director of Donor Relations for Lutheran Social Service of Northern California, an organization with an array of programs including ground-breaking work in San Francisco assisting homeless people living with AIDS. Prior to Health Access, he served as the Executive Director of the National AIDS Memorial Grove, a 7.5-acre memorial honoring all lives touched by AIDS, located in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park. It’s worth a visit if you are ever there. We were happy to have Rick relocate from San Francisco to join Health Access in 2005, even willing to brave Sacramento summers when he didn’t love the heat, but did appreciate other aspects of the Capital.

On this our 30th Anniversary we remember Rick with warmth and respect for all of his contributions.

Health Access California

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Brian Allison, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

Nancy “Nan” Brasmer, California Alliance for Retired American

Lori Easterling, California Teachers Association

Stewart Ferry, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, MS California Action Network

Aaron Fox, Los Angeles LGBT Center

Roma Guy, California Women’s Agenda

Paul Knepprath, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

Kathy Ko Chin, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Henry “Hank” Lacayo, Congress of California Seniors

Christina Livingston, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

Dondy Marie Maxey-Moreland, PICO California

Joshua Pechthalt, California Federation of Teachers

Art Pulaski, California Labor Federation

Emily Rusch, California Public Interest Research Group

Thomas Saenz, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Cary Sanders, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Horace Williams, California Black Health Network

Maribel Nunez, California Partnership

Sonya Young, California Black Women’s Health Project

All organizations listed for identification purposes only.

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Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Health Access Foundation and Health Access California

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HEALTH ACCESS STAFF



ANTHONY WRIGHT

Executive Director

ANTHONY has served as Executive Director for Health Access since 2002. Health Access has led state and national efforts to win consumer protections, fight budget cuts and invest in our safety-net, encourage prevention, and advance coverage expansions and comprehensive health reform. Wright led California's coalition effort to help pass the Affordable Care Act and state laws to implement and improve it, and campaigns to successfully pass first-in- the-nation laws to ensure timely access to care, and to stop hospital overcharging of the uninsured.

As a consumer advocate and community organizer, Wright has been widely quoted in state and national media. He has also worked for New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House.



MARY JUNE G. FLORES

Policy and Legislative Advocate

MARY JUNE joined Health Access in 2016. She represents health care consumers and supports the legislative advocacy efforts in the Legislature. Mary June most recently worked for Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, where she managed and coordinated the county's Health Committee policy and administrative oversight hearings, as well as monitored the county's public, safety-net hospital system. In addition to her local government experience, Mary June worked in state government as a California Assembly Fellow and legislative aide in the State Assembly. She staffed the health, human services, higher education, business and professions, jobs economic development, revenue and tax, Asian Pacific Islander, and Women's issue areas.

A social justice community organizer by training, Mary June is committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged Californians through effective public policy making and community empowerment. She serves on the Goldman School of Public Policy Alumni Association Board. Mary June received her Bachelor degrees in Asian American Studies and Comparative Ethnic Studies, and dual Master of Public Policy and Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley.



SILVIA FLORES

Director of Operations & Development

SILVIA joined Health Access in 2014. She has over 16 years of experience in non-profit work and 23 years in fundraising. Prior to joining Health Access she was the Associate Executive Director for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) and its Education Institute. Silvia was honoured by The Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County with a Business Community Service award for organizing the first California Community Colleges Veteran's Summit. A graduate from the University of California, Davis, Silvia received her Bachelor of Arts in English literature with a minor in Native American Studies.



AURORA GARCIA-BARRERA

Southern CA Community Organizer

AURORA joined Health Access in 2016. Aurora has over 6 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, which began with working with The Council of Mexican Federations where she fundraised for programs designed to help the Latino community. With a greater desire to organize, she began working as the CA Outreach Coordinator for Young Invincibles advocating on issues impacting young adults and in 2014, Aurora transitioned to California Partnership as the Los Angeles Organizer and Coordinator where she worked on advocacy and training on the state budget and its impact on low income communities.

Aurora graduated from UCLA in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Chicana/o Studies. While at UCLA, she began organizing on issues impacting underserved communities and immigrant rights. Through this all, Aurora has developed experience in building strong partnerships, working with the most vulnerable and underserved communities, and hopes to use these to build a more unified movement that can lead to needed change.



MUNEERA SHERIFF GARDEZI

Southern CA Community Organizer

MUNEERA joined Health Access in 2013. Muneera graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles and received her Masters from California State University, Northridge. She started her career in activism by working at Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations as a program assistant. Soon after, she joined South Asian Network where she served as a health advocate. Recently she finished two years of serving as an AmeriCorps fellow for Public Allies. In her free time, Muneera organizes with South Asians for Justice Los Angeles and other progressive groups in Los Angeles advocating for social justice.



NANCY MARISA GOMEZ

Organizing Director

NANCY joined the Health Access Staff in 2008. Educated in North and South America, she brings a cross-cultural perspective and twenty years of experience in the social/human service field. She has worked for organizations focused on pediatric AIDS, chronic illness, domestic/spousal/child abuse, and affordable housing. Most recently she served as the Director of Social Services for a service enriched affordable housing development organization serving hundreds of at-risk families, youth, children, and seniors.

In 2011 she received La Opinion's "Mujer Destacada" award for her advocacy in Health Care Reform. Nancy also specializes in Spanish media, having made numerous appearances on national and local news programs including radio, television, and print media. A pragmatic and creative problem solver, she credits her tenacity and resourcefulness to having served in the U.S. Navy.

HEALTH ACCESS STAFF

RACHEL LINN-GISH

Director of Communications

RACHEL joined Health Access in 2016. Utilizing her passion for social justice and expertise in strategic communication, she manages the media and advocacy outreach for the coalition. She returned to Sacramento after nearly four years in Washington D.C., where she earned her Masters from the George Washington University School of Media & Public Affairs and worked as part of the communications team for various national non-profit and political organizations including the AFL-CIO and the Institute for Women's Policy Research, where she helped build multiple websites to highlight the data on the status of women in the United States. Prior to living on the east coast, she worked at the State Capitol as Press Secretary for former Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, Press Aide for then-Assemblymember Mark Leno, and Press Intern for former Speaker Fabian Nunez.

TAM M. MA

Legal and Policy Director

TAM joined Health Access in 2015. She represents health care consumers in the Legislature and before administrative and regulatory entities. Tam's work is rooted in her deep commitment to ensuring that all communities have access to opportunity. Tam started her career as a California Senate Fellow and was previously senior staff to Senators Mark Leno and Sheila Kuehl, where she advised the Senators on policy and state budget issues relating to health and human services, consumer protection, housing, judiciary, and women's issues. Tam was honored by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault for her work to strengthen protections for survivors of these crimes. Tam advocated for the rights of low-income tenants when she was a trial attorney with Legal Services of Northern California's Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Project.

Tam sits on the board of the Women's Foundation of California and has served as a trainer and mentor for the foundation's award-winning Women's Policy Institute since its inception in 2003. She also serves on the board of the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento and is Past President of My Sister's House, a domestic violence shelter serving women throughout the Central Valley. Tam received her B.A. and J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and has served as a lecturer at the law school.

YASMIN PELED

Northern CA Community Organizer

YASMIN joined Health Access in 2016. Yasmin received her BS in Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). While studying at UCSC, Yasmin got her start in health care advocacy running a mobile health care clinic for the homeless and underserved in Santa Cruz County. Prior to joining Health Access, Yasmin worked with Families USA in Washington, D.C., with a focus on health equity issues.



JOSÉ TAPIA

Administrative & Legislative Assistant, Internship Program Manager

JOSÉ joined Health Access in 2015. José received his BA in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an A.A. in photography. He is a native to Los Angeles and has previously worked as an intern with several Congressional offices in Southern California. Thanks in part to his diverse upbringing, José has a strong commitment to ensure all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care. Prior to coming along to Health Access, José worked with Doctors for America in Washington, D.C.



AMANDA WALLNER

Director, CA LGBT Health & Human Services Network

AMANDA joined Health Access in 2016. Amanda has been fighting for LGBTQ equality since attempting to start a GSA at her Catholic high school. Her passion for LGBTQ community organizing only grew in 2008, when she was a student organizer against Proposition 8. Amanda worked as Health Policy Fellow at the Los Angeles LGBT Center while finishing a Master of Public Policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. After she graduated, Amanda worked as the organization's Policy and Operations Manager, coordinating research, advocacy on coalition work on a variety of policy issues affecting the LGBTQ community, including immigration, women's health, youth homelessness, and regulating the "troubled teen industry." Prior to graduate school, Amanda worked for Sierra Club California as a legislative aide and organizer. Amanda also worked on a number of campaigns ranging from county supervisor to Congress, and volunteered on marriage equality ballot initiatives in Maine and North Carolina.

Amanda has a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she headed the nationally recognized Campus Democrats organization and served as chair of the California Young Democrats' LGBTQ Caucus.



BETH CAPELL

Lobbyist/Policy Advocate

BETH, principal with Capell & Assoc., provides policy analysis, legislative advocacy, and other strategic input to Health Access and to other consumer, labor and public interest organizations on health care issues. She has headed Capell & Assoc. and represented Health Access since 1996. During those years, Health Access fought for and won the HMO Patient Bill of Rights as well as expansions of health coverage, including the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California. She has worked on a number of ballot measures related to health care. Beth has worked in and around the State Capitol since 1977, working on legislative staff, in the executive branch, and in campaign consulting. Since 1984, she has been a legislative advocate working on health care issues.

Beth has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and has also served as a Visiting Scholar, research associate and teaching assistant at that campus.

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**Thank you
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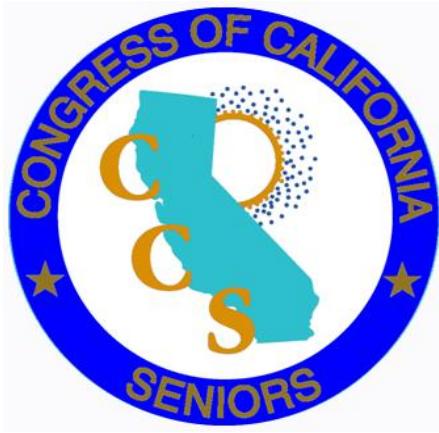
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**Congratulations to
Anthony Wright, Beth Capell
& all the Health Access staff and board
on Health Access' 30 years
of fighting for quality, affordable
health care for all Californians!**

We need you now more than ever.

- Joan Pirkle Smith and Kurtwood Smith



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On 30 years of outstanding advocacy on behalf of
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Deep thanks for your leadership
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Health Access
as you celebrate your 30th Anniversary
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**The Battle Continues ...
Fight On!!!**
**(oh, and congrats for
30 years of successful
advocacy)**

-- The California Health Policy Strategies Team
David Panush, Brent Barnhart,
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