

Home Stretch – 2022 Legislative Update

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The 2021-2022 State legislative year is ending on August 31, 2022. Once the final gavel falls, legislators will return home to their districts to resume campaigns and finish out the current elected term that concludes November 30th. The November 8 General Election will determine the fate of all statewide offices, including the Governor, all 80 Assembly seats and half of the 40 Senate seats. While we expect that there will be many new faces, there will also be plenty of incumbents returning to represent newly re-drawn districts following recent updates driven by California's latest census.

What does that mean for you? It means we need you! Your CAHIP membership and participation helps to educate new legislators. They NEED us to share our concerns and offer ourselves as resources as they work on ensuring access to quality healthcare for all Californians. While their job is not health insurance, they are elected to serve their constituents.

In addition to the return of Pumpkin Spice latte the last week of August, the legislature will also need to vote on about 800 bills to meet the constitutional deadline to adjourn. Once bills make it to the Governor's desk by September 1st, he will have until September 30th to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature.

We will take a close look at election outcomes and CAHIP's wins and losses for the year in our annual webinar in January, but until then, here are a few highlights.

Single payer was a wild start for us, and while the bill was ultimately not advanced this year, proponents have committed to bringing the bill back next year. We could see it reintroduced as soon as December 5, 2022 this year when the new legislative session convenes. In preparation for this ongoing fight, CAHIP commissioned a poll of voter attitudes towards healthcare and single payers. For a deep dive on that, check out our feature article in Cal Broker. [Click Here - to read more about it.](#)

A major change to healthcare in California this year is the recently implemented Office of Health Care Affordability which will be ramping up for an estimated six-year run, per authorization contained within the state budget. The Office is contained in the newly-designated Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). While the Office's many tasks include tall orders like creating and enforcing healthcare cost targets, the details behind this decision-making will not be determined until a Board is appointed in late 2023. Although CAHIP supports the stated objective of bringing transparency to opaque pricing practices and addressing troubling growth trends, we are alongside many other stakeholders who are cautious about duplication of regulations given that insurance is already heavily regulated.

On the Federal side, if you have been following the whittling down of the Build Back Better Act, you have likely heard of the Inflation Reduction Act that narrowly passed in the Senate. It is now on its way for a vote in the House, and if passed, not only would it allow the government to negotiate prescription

drug prices and put an inflation cap on carriers, but it will also extend the ARPA subsidies in the individual market for three more years.

Of important note to all agents that sell Medicare – there are new compliance requirements that CAHIP is opposing. [Click here - to read more about it.](#) While NAHU is working alongside AHIP, carriers, and other stakeholders, requesting at minimum a delay in implementing the new rule, the deadline is quickly approaching to be in compliance. Doing the right thing is what sets us apart from the bad actors this rule was meant to stop, so it is important everyone has access to the tools to implement by October 1. Keep your eyes out for more information as we receive clarification over the next several weeks.

As always, your membership is what keeps the work on behalf of agents and their clients happening. If each of us asked ONE person <https://nahu.org/membership/join-now> it would help significantly. If you would like information about how to become more involved with your local legislative activities let us know and we will connect you with your local chapter legislative chair. Your voice matters!