

NACHC's 2022 Virtual Policy & Issues Forum

Head to the Hill Week: March 14 – 18

California Delegation Webinar

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
& McAllister & Quinn



Agenda

- Welcome
- Political Landscape in D.C.
- NACHC's Policy Agenda
- California Priorities
- Virtual Congressional Visits
- Q&A





Angie Melton
Vice President,
McAllister & Quinn

More than 25 years of government and government relations experience, including 12 years representing CPCA. Served as Appropriations Committee Staff for a California Member of Congress.

Expertise in federal-level budgeting and appropriations processes. Advises clients on federal funding, legislative strategy, and grants.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN D.C.

NACHC'S POLICY AGENDA

NACHC P&I Policy Papers

- 340B Drug Pricing Program
- Appropriations Funding
- Federal Tort Claims Act for Volunteer Health Professionals
- Health Center Capital
- Planning for the Future Health Center Workforce
- Telehealth Expansion: COVID-19 and Beyond

CALIFORNIA PRIORITIES

California CHC Top Priorities: Guaranteeing Equitable Access Post-Pandemic

- ***Telehealth***

- To guarantee these innovations also continue in the Medicare program post-pandemic and can be utilized as part of the long road to an equitable recovery, federal action is needed.
- The continuation of policies (and ultimately made permanent) to ensure equitable access to telehealth
- CONNECT for Health Act (H.R. 2903/S. 1512), the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act (H.R. 366), and the HEALTH Act (H.R. 4437).

- ***Workforce***

- Invest in innovative solutions that address CHC recruitment and retention challenges during the current competitive labor market.
- Consider ways to leverage new scholarship funds, tax credits, and loan offerings that are utilized by other federal entities.
- Reserve additional funding for health professions education and training.

California Specific Fact Sheets

- ***Talking Points***

- 2022 CA Top Priorities: Telehealth & Workforce
- Federal Telehealth Fact Sheet

- ***Infographics***

- Immunization Infographic
- CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates 2021 State Profile
- CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates Workforce Infographic
- California Congressional Profiles

Virtual Hill Visit – Best Practices

- Coordinate with all meeting attendees in advance to determine which priorities to address with each Member of Congress.
- Designate a meeting “moderator” who can make introductions run smoothly.
- Focus on the issues that are most relevant to your health centers.
- Provide lots of examples and patient stories.
- **THE ASK!!!**
 - Make sure you ask for a commitment to support our issues.
- Don’t forget to thank Members of Congress and their staffs for their support and offer to provide additional information as needed.

How to Engage in P&I Social Media

- Use the appropriate social media platform.
- Bringing awareness to a subject by using hashtags: **#NACHCEvents** **#Telehealth** and **#ValueCHCs**.
- Share the content of others. *Make sure to follow the hashtags to stay engaged.*
- Connect with an individual or organization by using the @ sign.
- Add a photo to your post.
- If possible, add photo or screen shot of your group meeting with Congress Member and/or staff.
- Always thank the public official that you just met with.

Elected Officials are Paying Attention

CaHealth+ Advocates @HealthPlusAdv · Feb 23

Thanks to @AltaMedHealthS, located in @AsmCarrillo and @SantiagoAD53's district for providing written comments during the Asm. Telehealth Informational Hearing. Telehealth allows for a safe model of care for both patients and providers. #Thankful4Telehealth #YesOnAB32

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Miguel Santiago @SantiagoAD53

Replying to @HealthPlusAdv @AltaMedHealthS and @AsmCarrillo

Happening now!



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry @AsmAguiarCurry · Jan 11

So glad to have such strong advocates on board with our telehealth effort! Thank you @HealthPlusAdv! #YesonAB32 #Thankful4Telehealth

CaHealth+ Advocates @HealthPlusAdv · Jan 11

@HealthPlusAdv @PPActionCA @CMAAdocs @CAPHSystems @EssnAccessHlth work with @AsmAguiarCurry to make current telehealth flexibilities permanent under state law. #YesOnAB32 #Thankful4Telehealth #AccessTelehealth ow.ly/ix0G50D5wTb

californiahealthcare advocates

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2022

Telehealth Bill Introduced to Improve Health Care Access
Health Care Leaders Applaud Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (D-Alameda) for Introducing Legislation Intended to Improve Telehealth Access, Regardless of Insurance Coverage

CAHealth+ (on the left) of the California legislature passed the new year health care priorities and advisory groups just introduced Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Alameda) for introducing AB 3222. Introduced in December for its priority to highlight the growing need to strengthen telehealth access during the legislative session. AB 3222 aims to make current telehealth flexibilities permanent under state law. Telehealth modalities, the phone and video, and remote assessment in state health programs have been critical in providing health care during COVID-19, but are currently contingent upon federal and state public health emergency declarations.

"The expansion of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the few silver linings of this challenging time. It has improved health care for our nation's most health care workers, a priority allowing patients to maintain timely access to care while also mitigating COVID-19 exposure," said Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. "Access to healthcare should not require a state of emergency, nor depend upon a person's location, mobility, or income. It's time for the State of California to recognize that access to health care is a basic right, and to make telehealth part of our health care system, or we are not here."

Policy changes outlined in AB 3222 include: creating payment parity between telehealth managed care plans and commercial plans and allowing actual reimbursement for limited usage telehealth programs. Additionally, the intent of the bill is to continue the provision of telehealth in telehealth programs, including video and audio-only telehealth, to make the telehealth flexibilities introduced during the public health emergency permanent.

Community health care providers and advisory groups applaud the Assemblymember's leadership on the telehealth issue, and call on the legislature to make the telehealth flexibilities permanent during the public health emergency permanent.

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"The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the way we deliver care," said Cecilia Casanueva Davis, President and CEO of California Health Advocates. "Throughout the pandemic, telehealth has ensured greater equity for all citizens regardless of their geographic location by eliminating physical barriers to care. Communities of color, as well as rural communities, have been among the first to benefit from current telehealth flexibilities. We must move these flexibilities forward. Our state must maintain the current flexibilities in telehealth, leaving no Californian behind, in the post-pandemic recovery."

"In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing and sustaining access to care through telehealth has become more urgent than ever," said Peter M. Bricker, Jr., M.D., California Medical Association President. "Telehealth has become an essential tool for physicians' practice during this time because it allows them to provide safe and effective care, and it brings access to care to by utilizing technology to better handle physician time and expertise, and connects patients to their care providers more quickly."

"Telehealth has emerged as a critical pathway for patients across the state to get timely and essential health care during the pandemic," said Julie Kalkbrenner, President and CEO of Kaiser Permanente. "Through COVID-19 we have seen an opportunity to expand telehealth services to delivering in-person health services like transportation, COVID care, and more away from work and care sites. California must take action to ensure that telehealth continues to be an available and viable access point for all Californians during the public health emergency and beyond."

"During these uncertain times, one thing is true: telehealth has radically improved access to high-quality affordable health care, especially among rural communities and communities of color," said Jeff Mills, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of California. "Thanks to telehealth, California's health care providers, the Rural Health Clinic, and more than 100 telehealth and telemedicine programs are providing critical and reproductive health care services by phone or video conferencing. As a state, we need more equitable access to care and this, we think, is a great opportunity for California to take action to ensure that telehealth continues to be an available and viable access point for all Californians during the public health emergency and beyond."

Because of telehealth flexibilities, patients – no matter their background – can access the full spectrum of health care, including primary care, specialty services, mental and reproductive health care services, dental care, behavioral health services and more. If passed, AB 3222 will be a critical component of the telehealth policy infrastructure and would help pave the way for future health care innovation and advancement.

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Assemblywoman Laurie Davies @AsmLaurieDavies · Feb 11

Thank you @HealthPlusAdv for talking with me today. I will always support ways to increase access to #telehealth for the residents of #AD73!

CaHealth+ Advocates @HealthPlusAdv · Feb 11

Thank you @AsmLaurieDavies for your time today meeting with #CaminoHealthCenter @CoalitionOC on importance of #telehealth and #CHCs in #AD73! We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together! #ValueCHCs



Questions?

Policy Priorities

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Materials

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Social Media

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