

AB 85 Talking Points

- AB 85 is authored by Assemblymember Akilah Weber and is sponsored by the California Academy of Family Physicians, California Health+ Advocates, The Black Leadership Council & California Black Health Network.
- The bill currently has no opposition.
- AB 85 seeks to identify social determinants of health (SDOH) earlier in patients and intervene, by requiring health plans and insurers to pay for SDOH screenings and referrals to community health workers, social workers, and other care members.
- SDOHs are a growing cause of healthcare inequity resulting in worsening health outcomes and increasing health care costs. Health-related social needs must be addressed to improve health outcomes and equity, including racial and ethnic disparities.
- This bill will help ensure providers have the resources to better understand factors impacting our patients' health outside of the clinic walls.
- Under this bill providers will be able to choose what screening method they use and will be reimbursed under Medi-Cal fee for service.
- AB 85 is critical to improving health outcomes and health equity for vulnerable communities; the proposal aids in California's efforts to achieve a whole person care health care system.
- *Feel free to share your experiences with social needs that seriously impact your patient population's health.*
 - For example, substandard housing conditions such as poor ventilation, pest infestation, and water leaks are directly associated with respiratory diseases such as asthma.