

# CHCs Top Priorities Talking Points

April 2026



## Budget

**Restore Full-Scope Medi-Cal for Immigrant Californians (PPS for UIS)** – Roll back the cuts made in the 2025-26 State Budget Act, including the enrollment freeze, unaffordable monthly premiums, and elimination of dental benefits for undocumented enrollees, to maintain the state’s commitment to health equity. Additionally, retain full health center payments (PPS) for services provided to patients with UIS by community health centers and clinics, or at least delay this proposal until Jan 1, 2028 (reduced rate currently planned to go into effect July 1, 2026). PPS restoration would ensure funding for primary care and support stability of the safety net.

**NOTE:** The Senate FY 2026-27 Budget Plan delays PPS for UIS elimination until January 1, 2028.

- **Senate ASK:** Thank them for including UIS delays, including PPS for UIS delay in their budget plan.
- **Assembly ASK:** Sign onto Legislative letter supporting PPS for UIS restoration/delay (or thank them for signing on) and ask to align with the Senate’s proposal to delay to 1/1/2028 in their budget plan.

**Gender-Affirming Care (GAC)** – Support the \$26M budget ask to secure state funding to protect gender-affirming care (GAC) services for individuals under the age of 19 and those who have lost access to healthcare coverage due to federal policy changes. Funding will:

1. Create a state-only billing pathway under Medi-Cal for youth GAC services (\$1M); and
2. Bolster the capacity of providers to scale up services for patients who have lost access to care due to hospital youth GAC clinic closures (\$25M)

**Health Enrollment Navigator Funding** – Dedicate \$8M in one-time state funding to expand a pool of public/private funding to restore funding for the Health Enrollment Navigators Project to support Medi-Cal outreach, enrollment, and renewal efforts given new and significant changes to the Medi-Cal Program.

- DHCS has the authority to collect up to \$2M in private/foundation funding (\$4M with federal match). Currently \$500K has been dedicated by the Centene Foundation (\$1M with federal match).
- No state funding is *currently* dedicated to Health Enrollment Navigators in the upcoming fiscal year, despite current and implementing policy changes that will create new barriers to maintaining Medi-Cal enrollment.

## Legislation

### **AB 2386 (Alvarez): California Physician Expansion Act / CO-SPONSOR**

- This bill would create a permanent pathway for physicians that have participated in the Mexican Physician Program. It would also create a pathway for internationally trained physicians that meet educational and training requirements and authorized to work in the U.S.
- 21 states have created pathways for international medical graduates to gain full licensure without completing a post-graduate training in the U.S.

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- This will be another tool for the state to address the physician shortage, particularly addressing cultural and linguistic competency.
- **ASK: support the bill when it reaches the Assembly floor**

#### **SD 1179 (Menjivar): Salvadorean Physicians Program/ CO-SPONSOR**

- The bill would take the provisions from the Mexican Physicians Program and extend them to physicians from El Salvador that meet educational and training standards to practice at a FQHC under a non-renewable three-year license.
- The bill would allow a community health center with established relationships with universities in El Salvador to help develop, recruit, and coordinate physicians from El Salvador for the program.
- The bill allows up to 60 physicians to participate in the first cohort of the program with the program expanding in future years.
- **ASK: support this bill when it makes it to the Senate floor.**

#### **AB 1768 (Bryan): LA County Tax Cap Exemption / SPONSOR**

- The bill would authorize LA and Contra Costa Counties to increase its transactions and use tax at a rate of no more than 0.5 percent.
- For LA County, this bill would allow the ballot initiative, if passed in June, to be operationalized. The tax increase would have a five-year sunset.
- **ASK: support AB 1768 and act urgently to pass the full Legislature before mid-June.**