

Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline



Letter From The Director

Greetings! Welcome to CHBRP's Fall 2025 Newsletter.

The change of seasons is upon us. My kids seem to have multiple (complex) Halloween costume options ready, and in our offices, our attention is focused on the many preparations for the second year of the two-year legislative session. I first wanted to share the news that CHBRP has been reauthorized by the Legislature for six additional years (via [Senate Bill 439](#), authored by Senator Weber Pierson). Thanks to the successful passage of this bill, we are well-positioned to continue fulfilling our mission, which is to inform and support policymaking in California through the creation of impartial, evidence-based resources. We are incredibly grateful and humbled by the bill's passage, the near-unanimous support in the Legislature, and the sponsorship by the University of California. We also deeply appreciate the letters of support from many of the active stakeholders who heavily lean on CHBRP analyses, and the campuses from which CHBRP draws its faculty task force.



Given the dynamic drivers of health, effective policy-informing requires a multidisciplinary lens and a keen understanding of the complexities of health care. We partner with several health policy and health services research centers and institutes, and we continue reaching out to new ones. Towards that end, we're delighted to officially join as a partner organization with the California Research Bureau (CRB) Nexus. The [CRB Nexus](#) is a community of California researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and organizations committed to public policy solutions informed by data-driven research. In collaboration with the State Library, partner organizations seek to promote and translate evidence and foster the next generation of public scholarship aimed at identifying and solving policy issues. We invite you to check out their work.

We hope all our readers get the opportunity to enjoy the Fall season and spend some

time outside.

Until next time.

Warmly,
Garen

Updates from CHBRP

Cheers to a great summer!

We were thrilled to be joined by four interns this summer. Pictured clockwise from the upper left:

- **Abby Choy**, recent graduate of UC Riverside
- **Srinidhi Nagarajan**, undergraduate at UCLA
- **Preetam Vupputuri**, medical student in the UCSF-UC Berkeley Joint Medical Program, where he is also pursuing a master's degree in Health and Medical Sciences
- **Devon Sternberg**, MPH candidate at UC Berkeley



They brought their energy, curiosity, and thirst for learning to their summer work! Look for forthcoming publications, thanks to their summer research.

We wish Srinidhi, Preetam, and Devon the best as they continue their studies! Abby has joined CHBRP as a Project Assistant while she studies for the MCAT and applies to medical school.

CHBRP's 2025 Analyses

What happened to the bills that made it to the Governor's desk this year? Of the 13 bills analyzed by CHBRP in 2025, 7 were sent to the Governor's desk. Of these, one was signed into law and 6 were vetoed. Take a look at CHBRP's [Amendments and Analysis Updates](#) webpage (formerly called Status of Bills) to see which portions of CHBRP's analyses remain relevant based on the final version of the legislation. All completed analyses are available on CHBRP's website.

Location of Bills Analyzed by CHBRP

As of October 13, 2025

		Passed First Chamber	Passed Second Chamber	Signed or Vetoed by Gov Newsom
AB 298	Cost sharing			
AB 350	Fluoride treatment*			
AB 432	Menopause*			Vetoed
AB 546	HEPA purifiers and filters*			Vetoed
AB 554	Antiretroviral drugs, drug devices, and drug products*			Vetoed
AB 575	Obesity Prevention Treatment Parity Act			
AB 1032	Coverage for behavioral health visits*			Vetoed
SB 40	Insulin*			Signed
SB 242	Medicare supplement coverage*			
SB 257	PARENT Act*			Vetoed
SB 418	Prescription Hormone Therapy*			Vetoed
SB 535	Obesity Treatment Parity Act*			
SB 626	Perinatal health screenings and treatment*			

*Amended since CHBRP published its analysis

Amendments and Analysis Updates

Completed Analyses

CHBRP in the world!

CHBRP staff have had a busy few months! We've attended and presented at various conferences and seminars. These meetings are great ways to keep a pulse on what folks in health insurance, health policy, and policy more broadly are talking about. We also enjoy connecting with others and learning about ways CHBRP can continue to be helpful.

- National Association of State Health Policy (**NASHP**) Annual Conference
- UC Berkeley **Goldman** School of Public



Policy Conference

- **Milliman** HealthVision 360; presentation by **An-Chi Tsou** introducing CHBRP and discussing recent trends and evidence in [GLP-1 research](#)
- California Association of Health Plans (**CAHP**) Annual Conference
- Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies (**ACLHIC**) Annual Round Table; presentation by **An-Chi Tsou** about [California's Essential Health Benefits](#)
- UC Berkeley **School of Public Health** Research Seminar; presentation by **Adara Citron** and **Anna Pickrell** about CHBRP and the Task Force
- UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research, **Science for Health Policy Summit**; panel with **An-Chi Tsou** and **Beth Magnan** "Researchers informing policy through research"

Recent Publications



Health Insurance Benefit Mandates in California State and Federal Law

This **resource** reviews existing state and federal health insurance benefit mandate laws that may relate to the subject or purpose of a proposed state health insurance benefit mandate or repeal bill.



Mental Health Parity Laws

An **Explainer** of the basics on federal and state mental health parity laws, how they differ, and how these policies affect coverage for Californians in state-regulated health insurance.

HR-1 and Medicaid



Timeline of HR-1 Major Medicaid Provisions

2026



Pharmacy Benefit Coverage

Pharmacy Benefits in State-Regulated Health Insurance for 2026

Take a look at [this](#) Health Care Nuts and Bolts for an overview of the federal legislation signed in July 2025.

A **Health Care Nuts and Bolts** providing an overview of pharmacy benefit coverage and regulation in California.

2025-26 State Budget & Medi-Cal



Timeline of 2025-26 California State Budget Provisions on Medi-Cal

A **Health Care Nuts and Bolts** providing an overview of California's final state budget and its impacts on Medi-Cal.

2027 and EHBs



California's Proposed 2027 EHB Benchmark Plan

A **Health Care Nuts and Bolts** providing an overview of California's proposed 2027 EHB Benchmark Plan and the new benefits included.

See all of the above materials and many more on CHBRP's [website](#).

[See all Resources](#)

[See all Nuts and Bolts](#)

Task Force and NAC Spotlight

Each newsletter, CHBRP features two Task Force or NAC members and the important work they do outside of CHBRP. See more information about all of our Task Force and NAC members on CHBRP's [website](#).

Marilyn Moon, PhD

Dr. Marilyn Moon has been a member of CHBRP's National Advisory Committee since 2002 when the program began, providing essential insight and perspective. In her reviews of analyses, she helps ensure CHBRP's analyses can be understood by lay audiences and break down complex information and terms for general members of the public. Dr. Moon values the different perspectives that CHBRP brings together and the knowledge she gains from reading these



reports.

Dr. Moon has an extensive background in health policy economics. Her last position was as a Senior Fellow at the American Institutes for Research and before that managed approximately 130 staff members in their health program. She helped to inform consumers, providers, and policymakers about aging issues, delivery system innovations, and approaches to Medicare and Social Security Reform. She also served as a Trustee for Medicare and Social Security.

Moon started her career in health policy through academia, writing her dissertation on the economic status of the economic well-being of older Americans. Her research led her to connect economics and health, and after finishing her PhD she went to Washington, D.C. to work as a Medicare analyst at the Congressional Budget Office. She is most proud of working to create changes in Medicare and being able to stay true to her convictions as she worked on health reform.

Although Dr. Moon largely retired in 2017, she still engages with the health policy space in multiple ways beyond working with CHBRP. Recently, she authored an essay for Medicare's 60th anniversary in Health Affairs and is currently co-authoring a book titled "Is it Right for Me?". "Is It Right for Me?" is a book on retirement housing, how people can make choices when thinking about their next 15 years, and the different housing and health care options available. She enjoys being able to jump into different topics at her own pace without worrying about funding and supervisors.

Alan Weil, JD, MPP

Alan Weil serves as a member of the CHBRP NAC, using his breadth of experience in health policy to review CHBRP's analyses for accuracy and clarity. He says the most rewarding part of being on the CHBRP NAC is the opportunity to read the excellent evidence-based policy analysis prepared by the staff. He finds it interesting to see what the California Legislature thinks needs to be addressed in policy and enjoys CHBRP's systematic approach to looking at changes to insurance regulation.



Mr. Weil is currently the Senior Vice President for public policy at AARP analyzing health, financial, and community issues for persons 50 and older. He enjoys being able to analyze a breadth of issues through the lens of the people affected by them, rather than just focusing on a specific program or topic. He has a side interest in city and regional planning, specifically topics on designing communities that support people as they age.

Initially interested in social policy, Alan found himself accidentally drawn into health policy after he completed his graduate schoolwork which focused on employment and welfare. He has since held many impressive roles such as the Editor in Chief of Health Affairs, the Executive Director of the National Academy for State Health Policy, a Center Director at the Urban Institute, and a member of the Governor's Cabinet in Colorado.

During his career, Mr. Weil is most proud of being a leading part of Massachusetts's health reform, which eventually became the foundation for the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Weil is also proud of his involvement in the 1990s efforts to convince governors to advocate for keeping Medicaid out of the federal welfare reform block-granting plan, thereby protecting coverage and maintaining national standards for the program.

[About Us](#)[Complete Analyses](#)[Recent Requests](#)[Contact Us](#)

California Health Benefits Review Program

University of California, Berkeley MC 3116

Berkeley, CA 94720-3116

Phone: (510) 664-5306

[**Get In Touch**](#)

California Health Benefits Review Program | MC 3116 | Berkeley, CA 94720 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!