

Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline

Letter From The Director

Warm spring greetings to our readers. Another legislative cycle is underway, with 13 bills analyzed by CHBRP's Task Force and staff making their way through the legislative process. We welcomed 15 new Task Force members this year, who dove right in to support our work. These talented experts, along with our veteran team members, analyzed topics this year ranging from dementia treatment and preventive services to single payer and copay adjustment programs.



As many of you may have noticed, our reports look a little different this year. Stakeholder feedback encouraged us to innovate and develop a new approach that provides readers with options to meet their preferred level of detail. For each analysis, we now provide a summarized **Bill Analysis Report** designed to communicate the key points, as well as a robust **Technical Brief** for those who seek deeper dives into our methods and detailed findings. We are hopeful that these new formats will support our readers in getting the most helpful information out of CHBRP's work. As always, we welcome your feedback! Below you will find a link to a 4-question survey on this topic.

In the coming months we will continue to support the Legislature through the next few rounds of hearings and remain available to answer questions about our analyses. We also look forward to our annual meetings with approximately three dozen stakeholders to discuss how CHBRP can continue to inform their work.

Until next time.

Warmly,
Garen

Updates from CHBRP

CHBRP's 2026 Analyses

CHBRP analyzed 13 bills this year and is monitoring their progress as they move through the legislative cycle. The Legislature may request additional updates as bills are amended. All completed analyses are available on CHBRP's website.

Take a look at our "**Amendments and Analysis Updates**" page to see the portions of CHBRP analyses that remain relevant after amendments are made to analyzed bills.

See the "**Completed Analyses**" section of our website to review analyses, technical briefs, and infographics. All previously completed analyses are also available on

Location of Bills Analyzed by CHBRP

As of April 29, 2026

		Passed First Policy Hearing	Passed First Fiscal Hearing	Passed Second Policy Hearing
AB 298	Cost sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1570*	Diagnostic imaging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1682	Scalp cooling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1843	Communicable diseases: Hepatitis B and C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1887	Prescription drug coverage for rare diseases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1900	Guaranteed Health Care for All	<input type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1906	Cervical cancer screening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
AB 1970	Mental health or substance use disorders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SB 950*	Dementia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SB 1089*	Preventive Treatment Health Care Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SB 1094	Prescription drugs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SB 1199*	Prescription drug cost sharing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SB 1309*	Lung cancer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

*Amended since CHBRP published its analysis

Amendments and Analysis Updates

Completed Analyses

We want to hear from you!

CHBRP rolled out new report formats this year to allow readers to access our reports in their preferred level of detail. Under this new format, we provide both a Bill Analysis Report and a Technical Brief for each bill. We continue to provide a one-page infographic for each bill analysis.

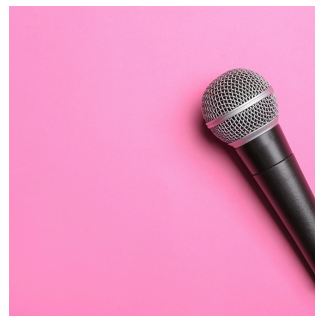
We want to hear your feedback on our updated report format! Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey on this topic.



[Take me to the survey!](#)

Recent Presentations

CHBRP was pleased to co-host with the UC Student and Policy Center in Sacramento a March briefing on California's Aging Population. **Rachel Bluth of Politico** facilitated an introductory conversation with **Susan DeMarois, Director of the California Department of Aging**, and a discussion between **Kathryn Kietzman, PhD, MSW of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research** and **Lindsey Yourman, MD of UC San Diego's Stein Institute for Research on Aging**.



Recent Publications



New Background Bits

Menopause

GLP-1 Medication

[See all Background Bits](#)



New Resources

Sources of Health Insurance in California for 2027

Pharmacy Benefit Coverage in State-Regulated Health Insurance for 2027

[See all Resources](#)

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

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](#).

Kyoko Peterson, MPH

Kyoko Peterson is a research analyst with the Healthforce Center and the Institute of Health Policy Studies at UCSF. Since joining the center in 2023, her work has focused on healthcare workforce issues in medicine, nursing, dental, and allied health. As part of the Medical Effectiveness team at CHBRP, she has analyzed bills about behavioral health treatment for sexual assault and scalp cooling for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced alopecia. Prior to her time at UCSF, Ms. Peterson was a Policy Analyst at the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women in domestic violence and human trafficking.



After earning her undergraduate degree, she worked for the city government of San Francisco in public policy and public programs addressing gender-based violence, including human trafficking and domestic violence. While her work in these areas was rooted in policy and program implementation, she developed an interest in becoming involved in the research side of public health and making contributions to better inform public policy. This led her to pursue a Masters degree in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from UC Berkeley and eventually to UCSF in her current role as a research analyst.

In both of her roles as a research analyst and a Medical Effectiveness Team member, Ms. Peterson values the opportunity her work provides to collaborate with different levels of government in California. Through CHBRP's work, she engages with the state legislature, and as a research analyst at UCSF, she has worked with local government officials in conducting analyses for a consortium of rural counties. She finds her work especially rewarding because it has a tangible impact on communities; for example, she was able to contribute to a CHBRP analysis of a bill addressing care for victims of sexual assault, which included emergency room care and behavior health benefits. This project also allowed her to witness the collaborative efforts of multiple teams working towards a shared goal. Additionally, she takes pride in being the main author of a complex human trafficking report for the city of San Francisco—a project that was logistically challenging, but ultimately provided the public with critical information.

In the future, Ms. Peterson hopes to deepen her expertise in qualitative research and continue contributing to CHBRP analyses. She aspires to learn more about prevalent public health issues and use her skills and experience to inform policies that drive meaningful change for people in her community.

Don Metz

Donald E. Metz has been a member of CHBRP's National Advisory Council (NAC) since 2012. As the Executive Editor and Interim Editor-in-Chief of *Health Affairs*, he spends most of his time on processes involving the evaluation and selection of content for the journal, as well as editorial planning and coordinating with other departments. Since much of his work involves asking outside experts to review papers for the journal, he enjoys being on the other side through his work with CHBRP, offering feedback on their reports. Mr. Metz appreciates the opportunity to offer meaningful contributions to important

processes that inform policy decisions and believes CHBRP's work is a valuable model for state governments. He particularly enjoys working with the dedicated staff at CHBRP and improving communication by helping writers craft their intended messages.

Mr. Metz studied finance as an undergraduate and worked at an economic policy research and consulting firm after graduation. During graduate studies in philosophy, he worked part-time for The Journal of Health Administration Education. This experience reinforced his passion for working with manuscripts at the intersection of science and policy, leading him to join *Health Affairs* in 1993. He credits his philosophy training with improving his critical thinking skills and ability to make important distinctions within complex written material. He later earned a degree in applied mathematics, with an emphasis on statistics, which also helps him with the technical aspects of his work with reviewers and authors.



While he describes his career path as a “zig-zag,” he is grateful for the diversity of his education and its applicability to his current role. During his 30+ years of working in the public policy sphere, Mr. Metz has also been a member of the institutional review board of Project HOPE, a global health and humanitarian assistance organization, from 2001 to 2003. He was also named a 2002 Jack R. Howard Science Reporting Institute Fellow.

Mr. Metz describes *Health Affairs* as a unique type of academic journal that presents empirical work written mostly by researchers and academics, but with a much broader readership, encompassing policy makers and private sector decision makers, as well.

Mr. Metz is most proud of his contributions toward building a collegial, mission-driven working environment that encourages staff retention, as well as the many expansion efforts at *Health Affairs* that he has been a part of over several decades. What started as a quarterly health policy journal in 1981 has expanded to include *Forefront* (an online daily publication), podcasts, policy briefs, and a wide variety of public briefings.

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