

## Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline

### Letter From the Director

CHBRP staff, Task Force members, and student employees have been busy this summer and fall! We are pleased to share a range of new educational materials on our website, including explainers, issue briefs, and infographics. Our team has also been keeping busy attending webinars, stakeholder meetings, and conferences addressing complex questions around healthcare coverage, policy, and financing.



As we prepare for the upcoming legislative session, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to a few departing and retiring CHBRP members whose wisdom, technical expertise, and commitment to public service has been invaluable to CHBRP over many years. Several of them are featured in this issue. Working with our amazing staff, faculty Task Force members, national advisors, research librarians, and actuaries is a distinct privilege; their work is what built CHBRP's reputation and continues to sustain it over the years.

I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy some golden leaves and the unique feel of autumn before the winter rain arrives.

Until next time,

Garen

## Updates from CHBRP

### CHBRP's 2026 Analyses

Of the 14 bills CHBRP analyzed this year, 8 were sent to the Governor's desk, all of which were signed into law. Additionally, two bills that CHBRP analyzed in 2025 made it to the Governor's desk, where both were signed.

Take a look at our [Amendments and Analysis Updates](#) page to see the portions of CHBRP analyses that remain relevant based on the final version of each bill.

See the [Completed Analyses](#) section of our website to review bill analysis reports, technical briefs, and infographics. All analyses completed in previous years are also available.

# Location of Bills Analyzed by CHBRP

As of October 28, 2026

|                                                                | Passed First House                                                                | Passed Second House                                                                   | Signed by Governor                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AB 298 Cost sharing                                            |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| AB 350* <sup>▲</sup> Fluoride treatments                       |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| AB 1570* Diagnostic imaging                                    |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| AB 1682 Scalp cooling                                          |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| AB 1843* Communicable diseases: Hepatitis B and C              |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| AB 1887* Prescription drug coverage for rare diseases          |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| AB 1900 Guaranteed Health Care for All                         |  |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| AB 1906* Cervical cancer screening                             |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| AB 1970* Mental health or substance use disorders              |                                                                                   |    |                                                                                       |
| SB 331* Hearing Aids                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |    |
| SB 626* <sup>▲</sup> Perinatal health screenings and treatment |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |   |
| SB 950* Dementia                                               |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |  |
| SB 1089* Preventive Care Act                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |  |
| SB 1094* Prescription drugs                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                       |  |
| SB 1199* Prescription drug cost sharing                        |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                       |
| SB 1309* Lung cancer                                           |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                       |

\*Amended since CHBRP published its analysis

▲ Introduced and analyzed by CHBRP in 2025

Amendments and Analysis  
Updates

Completed Analyses

## CHBRP in the World!

CHBRP staff have had a busy fall attending and presenting at conferences. These meetings are a great way for us to stay up-to-date on health insurance and policy changes both within California and nationally. We also enjoy connecting with others and learning about ways CHBRP can continue to be helpful. This year, we attended the following events:

- In September, Director **Garen Corbett** presented on a panel about health care costs at the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies

(**ACLHIC**) Annual Round Table. The presentation focused on mental health and substance use disorder services, which comprise roughly 8% of California's commercial claims and are growing up to twice as fast as overall medical spending.

- In September, CHBRP staff attended the National Academy of State Health Policy (**NASHP**) Annual Conference in New York and the California Health Care Foundation (**CHCF**) 30th Anniversary Conference in San Francisco.
- In October, CHBRP staff attended the California Association of Health Plans (**CAHP**) Annual Conference in Palm Desert.
- In November, CHBRP staff will attend the **33rd Conference on Health Care Economics & Policy** (formerly the Princeton Conference) in Boston and the **ER Brown Symposium** in Sacramento.

## Recent Publications



CHBRP continues our disparities in health explainer series with two new additions, plus more to come before the end of the year!

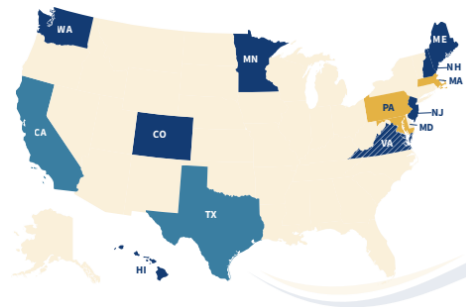
**LGBTQ+ Health Disparities in California**  
[Explainer](#) and [Nuts and Bolts](#)

**Disparities in Health Care Based on Immigration Status**  
[Explainer](#) and [Nuts and Bolts](#)



### Health Savings Accounts and Eligible Health Plans

This [Explainer](#) provides an overview of HSAs, what types of plans they can be used with, and what services can be covered without cost sharing.



### State Health Benefit Mandate Review Programs

Over the past year, CHBRP conducted interviews with programs across the country that analyze health insurance benefit-

### What are Pharmacy Benefits?

This [Explainer](#) describes the difference between medical and pharmacy benefits. The accompanying [Nuts and Bolts](#) provides accompanying visuals.

### An Introduction to Medicare

This [Explainer](#) provides an overview of Medicare, enrollment trends, and program financing. This [Nuts and Bolts](#) provides accompanying visuals.

related legislation for state legislatures.

This [Issue Brief](#) summarizes the structure of 13 such programs, their analytic processes, and the scope of their analyses. This [Nuts and Bolts](#) provides accompanying visuals.

[See all Publications](#)

## Retirement Spotlight

### Paul Brown, PhD

Paul Brown retired from his role as a professor of health economics at UC Merced this year. Paul is the founding Director of the Health Sciences Research Institute at UC Merced.

Paul also retired from CHBRP this year after serving as a Cost Lead and Senior Cost Reviewer since 2022.



### Penny Coppernoll-Blach, MS

Penny Coppernoll-Blach retired this year after serving as the Pharmacy Librarian at the UC San Diego Library, where she was the library liaison to the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Penny has worked with CHBRP since 2005 and has supported many CHBRP analyses each year with literature searches and reviews.

### Sylvia Guendelman, PhD, MSW

Sylvia Guendelman retired from CHBRP this year after serving for 20 years as a Peer Faculty member.

Sylvia is a Professor Emerita at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, where she is the Founder and Advisory Committee Chair of the Wallace Center for Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH).



## **Elizabeth Magnan, MD, PhD**

Elizabeth (Beth) Magnan moved on from CHBRP this year to a very full plate of clinical and research responsibilities at UC Davis. Beth served for five years as CHBRP's Vice Chair for Medical Effectiveness in addition to four previous years as a Task Force member.

## **Joy Melnikow, MD, MPH**

Joy Melnikow retired from UC Davis this year after serving over 30 years in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Joy was the Director of the UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research and a member of the US Preventive Services Task Force.

Joy also retired after 18 years from CHBRP, where she served as Peer Faculty and, formerly, as the Vice Chair for CHBRP's Faculty Task Force Public Health Impact Team.



## **Dominique Ritley, MPH**

Dominique Ritley retired this year after serving as a senior health policy analyst at UC Davis' Center for Healthcare Policy and Research. Dominique has served on CHBRP's public health team since 2007 and will continue with CHBRP in her retirement.

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