

**Comprehensive Health Care Reform Bills
2009-10 Session**

SB 56 (Alquist) – Expresses the intent of the Legislature to implement comprehensive reforms in the state’s health care delivery system by 2012 that will ensure that all Californians have access to affordable, high quality health care coverage, help contain the long-range rate of growth of health care costs, and reform insurance underwriting and rating practices. The bill further expresses intent to enact specific reforms by 2010 that will, at a minimum, provide a foundation for any successful health care reform in California, including reforms to encourage greater use of electronic medical records, make health care cost and quality data more readily available to consumers, make it easier for individuals and small employers to shop for and compare the benefits of competing health plans, and expand Medi-Cal eligibility for low-income adults and families.

SB 92 (Aanestad) – Allows out-of-state carriers to offer plans in California without being licensed in California. Allows health plans and insurers to offer plans and policies that do not include all state mandated benefits. Encourages the offering of high deductible health plans, as specified. Allows health plans and insurers to offer healthy action incentives and rewards programs. Modifies provisions pertaining to guaranteed association plans, as specified. Allows health plans and insurers to offer a single policy that provides health care coverage and workers' compensation benefits. States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would realign Medi-Cal benefits with those offered through private health care coverage. Contains several provisions to encourage or require the use of electronic health records and personal health records. Requires DHCS to develop a plan for the use of certain disproportionate share hospital funds for creation and expansion of primary care clinics. Provides specified tax credits for health care providers, including those who provide services in rural areas, and for employers who offer health insurance to their employees. Also allows various income tax deductions related to the costs of health insurance and health savings accounts, as specified. Modifies existing law pertaining to the supervision of medical assistants. Imposes a fee on money transmissions involving undocumented residents, to be used to pay for emergency medical care to undocumented residents.

SB ___ (Leno) -- would establish a single-payer universal health care system that provides all California residents with comprehensive health insurance including a choice

of doctors and hospitals. The bill would consolidate federal, state, and local monies currently being spent on health care services into a health care trust fund, and would require employers to contribute a percentage of payroll toward employee health care costs and individuals to contribute a percentage of income into the health care trust fund; these contributions would replace premiums now paid to insurance companies. The bill would contain long-term growth in health care spending through savings on administrative overhead, increased emphasis on preventive, primary, and chronic care, and using statewide purchasing power to negotiate discounts on drugs and durable medical equipment. *Expected to be introduced this week.*

AB 23 (Jones) – Expresses the intent of the Legislature to accomplish the goal of universal health care coverage for all California residents within five years that includes subsidies for Californians with low incomes, leveraging federal health care programs and funding, maintaining and strengthening the health insurance system, implementing meaningful cost containment strategies, and conducting systematic evaluation at each step of the implementation process, as specified.