


June 20, 2025

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' *California Update*. Each week APG reports the latest on health care happenings in the Golden State.

Here's what you'll find in this week's edition:

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- 2025 APG California Policy & Advocacy [Meeting Dates](#)
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Progress On Prior Authorization Legislation Is Made

This week, APG engaged on AB 539 (Schiavo), a bill that would extend all in-network authorizations to a full 12 months. This legislation is part of a larger national effort by the [American Medical Association](#) on prior authorization reform, and a half-dozen states have already passed bills that expand to the 12-month limit. APG and others have expressed significant [concerns](#) over the policy behind this bill. The author and her staff have been very accommodating and reasonable in listening to those concerns. Over the past two weeks, APG and its members have engaged with Senate Health Committee staff to provide further information on the role of RBO prior authorization review and approval periods. [A list of potential amendments](#) has been compiled by Senate Health Committee staff that move the bill in a much more positive direction that would allow for a level of convenient reform without gutting the care management role played by our RBO members. However, we learned this week that the author has pulled the bill from hearing for this year. It is likely the measure will become a two-year bill and will be taken up in the early part of next year's legislative session.

With the holding of AB 510 (Addis) on prior authorization appeals & grievances in the Appropriations Committee at the end of May, and now the withdrawal of AB 539 this week, the remaining prior authorization-related legislation includes:

- [SB 306](#) (Becker) Exemption of Services with 90% or greater approval rate – Proceeding in Assembly Health with a mid-July hearing date likely
- [SB 363](#) (Wiener) Mandatory fines for denials if 50% or more are overturned in IMR – Likely to proceed in Assembly Health, but no date scheduled yet.
- [AB 512](#) (Harabedian) Conflates prior authorization review times down to 48 hours for standard requests and 24 hours for urgent matters – Proceeding in Senate Health Committee but not yet scheduled for hearing in July.
- [AB 682](#) (Ortega) Requires public transparency of utilization management statistics by health plans – Scheduled for July 2nd in Senate Health Committee.

This past week, APG engaged with Assembly Health Committee members on SB 306 and SB 363 and will likely participate in stakeholder meetings with the Committee staff over the next week or so. APG is proposing an alternative approach to prior authorization, summarized in our most recent letter on [SB 306](#).



One Good Thing

This week's One Good Thing story features the the California Nurses Association's plan to reintroduce a new Single Payer Bill in 2026.

We learned late yesterday that the California Nurses Association intends to reintroduce a new Single Payer bill in next year's legislative session. It was reported that the bill would not be tied to any funding mechanism and so would likely be a "policy only" measure.

The most recent effort occurred in 2024. This bill, also known as CalCare, aimed to set up a universal single-payer health care system but ultimately died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in May 2024. The high cost of the proposed system was cited as a major factor in its failure, particularly given the state's budget challenges.

Prior legislation, California's SB 770, passed in 2023, aimed to establish a framework for a unified healthcare financing system, potentially paving the way for single-payer health care. The bill required the secretary of California's Health & Human Services Agency, no later than June 1, 2025, to complete drafting the waiver framework, make the draft available to

the public on the agency's internet website, and hold a 45-day public comment period thereafter. The bill required the secretary, no later than November 1, 2025, to provide the Legislature and the Governor with a report that communicates the finalized waiver framework, as specified, and sets forth the specific elements to be included in a formal waiver application to establish a unified health care financing system, as specified. Checking the Agency [website](#) revealed that no action has been taken since 2024 on the report.

Why did we cite this news as “one good thing” for this week? Recent versions of the single-payer legislation have included provisions that outlaw the California Delegated Model. In each instance where the proposed single payer bills have advanced to a public hearing, APG has used these forums to explain the value proposition of our members' organizations within the state's health care system, advancing cost savings and better outcomes for patients. *And so, we will gear up for another effort in early 2026 and fight on!*

Do you have a piece of good news in California health care to share? Click [here](#) to submit your story!



2025 APG California Policy & Advocacy Meeting Dates

Members, please mark your calendars for APG's California Policy Forum and California Medi-Cal Forum meetings. You can download APG's 2025 events calendar [here](#).

California Policy Forum

2:00 - 3:00 pm

- November 12

California Medi-Cal Forum

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- October - TBD



- **Tracked Health Care Bills [2025-26](#):** bills we're following in the California State Legislature
- **Digital Exchange Framework** [APG member tool kit](#), [QHIO webinar](#) and [DxF Program summary slide deck](#)
- **Office of Health Care Affordability** [regulations](#) and [explanatory slide deck](#)
- APG, Moss Adams, Sheppard Mullin **CMIR Regulation** [webinar](#) and [slides](#)
- **DMHC SB 510** [All Plan Letter](#) on Health Plan payment responsibilities
- **DMHC Quality and Equity Reporting** program [All Plan Letter](#)
- **DHCS Medi-Cal Medical Loss Ratio** [Implementation Summary](#)
- **DHCS Medi-Cal Connect** [Population Health Program](#) Information

For more news and resources, please visit APG's [website](#) or contact a member of APG's California advocacy team.

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