Pathways to Universal Coverage in California

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Key Issues

- Progress made in California to date under the ACA
- Challenges that still need to be addressed
- The politics of single-payer health care in California
- Challenges to achieving single-payer in California
- Pathways to universal coverage
The Share of Californians Without Health Care Coverage Continued to Decline Into 2017

California Fully Implemented Federal Health Care Reform in January 2014

* January to June.

Note: Estimates are based on survey respondents’ health care coverage status at the time of the interview.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey
Medi-Cal Enrollment Exceeds 13 Million, More Than Twice the 2006-07 Level

Enrollment Gains Have Been Due to Full Implementation of Health Care Reform

Note: Data for 2012-13 through 2017-18 are state estimates and 2018-19 is projected. Figures reflect average monthly enrollment.
Source: Department of Health Care Services
Federal Funds Account for More Than One-Third of California’s State Budget

Total Proposed 2018-19 Expenditures = $296.2 Billion

Source: Department of Finance
More Than 7 in 10 Federal Dollars Spent Through the State Budget Support Health and Human Services

Federal Funds Estimated to Be Spent Through the State Budget in 2018-19 = $105.9 Billion

* Includes Environmental Protection; Legislative, Judicial, and Executive; Corrections and Rehabilitation; and other state budget categories that account for relatively small shares of federal funds.

Source: Department of Finance
Three principles for pursuing universal coverage in California

• A comprehensive transition plan and realistic revenue plan should be created before state lawmakers or voters are asked to approve a proposal.

• These transition and financing plans should assume a gradual phase-in of a new system, in light of the many uncertainties associated with transforming a sector that comprises one-seventh of the state’s economy.

• Let the voters weigh in in order to ensure that the system holds up to constitutional requirements and legal scrutiny.