

# Agenda Item. 6

## 2025 Legislative & Budget Process

### March - June

# January and February 2025 – New Bills

In our LPPC meeting in January, we talked about what the legislators would be doing between January and February. Here is what they did:

- **2,350** bills were introduced
- Assembly Bills (AB's) 1500
- Senate Bills (SB's) 850
- 37% of total bills are placeholder bills- 481 are intent bills and 390 are spot bills
- **35 Bill Limit** - this is the first year in which bill introduction limits were reduced to 35 bills per Assembly Member (previously 50 bill limit) and Senator (previously 40 bill limit) for the two-year session
- Compare with 2024 - 2,124 bills; Assembly 1,505 and Senate 619

# March, April and May 2025 - Bill Hearings

- March and April are when the Senate and Assembly hold policy committee hearings.
- This is important because these hearings always give the public a chance to speak about why they like or dislike a bill. This is called testifying and the legislators' vote will be influenced by what the public shares
- Each bill will pass or fail.

# February - April 2025 Budget Hearings

- The Senate and the Assembly each have their own Budget committee. Each Budget committee has five or six sub-committees. Each subcommittee focuses on an area of policy, such as “health” or “transportation”.
- The sub-committees began hearings in February to hear about what is happening in the state budget and the requests of individual departments. Hearings will continue through the end of March.
- The next step will be hearings with each of the full budget committees in April.
- Knowing about the Budget is important because they make decisions that affect the services our community receives.

# May and June 2025 – Legislature's Budget

- On May 15th The Governor will update his January budget. This budget is called the **Governor's May Revise**. He updates the January budget proposal based on how well this year's budget looks, the question is does it look better or worse than in January?
- The Senate and Assembly will review these updates and vote on what they want, based on their February and March sub-committee hearings.
- June 15th is the deadline for the Legislature to give the Governor their updated budget. The new budget begins when the Governor signs the Legislature's budget, no later than July 1st.
- Knowing about the Budget is important because they make decisions that impact the services our community receives.

# Questions/Discussion



# Agenda Item 7.

## State Legislative and Budget Updates

- Update on Legislative Priorities (*Taking Charge*)
- 2025 Bill Introduction
- Budget Update



# 2025-2026 Policy Priorities – Review



# 2025-2026 Policy Priorities

- Declares the Council's priorities for the 2025-2026 2-year legislative session:
  - Protect and enhance civil rights
  - Guarantee access to education and employment
  - Identify and prioritize emerging issues in the IDD community
  - Promote access to quality supports in the community
  - Ensure safety in the community
  - Improve housing and community living

# 2025 Theme – Review

# 2025 Theme

- A theme focuses the Council's policy work among many priorities
- Our theme this year is "*Taking Charge*"
  - Who's in charge? We're in charge!
  - As in, *we are in charge* of creating the change we want for ourselves, in our lives, and in systems that serve us
- Found in Federal DD Act
  - People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have a right to exert control and choice over their own lives, play decision making roles in policies and programs, and be fully integrated into the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of California

# 2025 Legislative Priorities – Update

# 2025 Priorities – Update

- There Should Be A Law Contest Winners
  - Exceptionally Medically Underserved Population Designation
  - Chronic Absenteeism
  
- Taking Charge
  - Plain Language Legislation
  - Future Strategies – Nothing About Us Without Us

# EMUP – 2025 Priority

- Designate persons with IDD to be as an “Exceptional Medically Underserved Population” (EMUP) in California with the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency
- Idea by Dr. Rebecca Lech, who developed the idea with the RAC
- Policy change, not a legislative bill
  
- **What California designation of IDD as an EMUP would do:**
  - Expand physician and dentist training to care for people with IDD;
  - Expand funding for screening;
  - Additional scholarship or loan repayment incentives for clinicians to serve people with IDD;
  - Additional community health center grants to provide care;
  - Prioritize research of issues affecting people with IDD; and
  - Include people with IDD in clinical trials—particularly in later-stage therapeutic research.

# Chronic Absenteeism – 2025 Priority

- Students with disabilities may have medical/health needs that may cause chronic absenteeism. The consequences for chronic absenteeism should not apply to students without disabilities and their individual needs should be met.
- Harm: Schools say students who miss too much classroom time must be homeschooled, forcing education in isolation from peers. Families had to change their priorities and parents had to stop working to teach their children.
- Submitted by two family advocates
- Investigating policy changes in 2025

# 2025 Priorities - *Taking Charge*

- Advance Plain Language
  - California law says information put out by the state must be in plain language
  - This is not the experience of many
  - Can the plain language laws be stronger?



# Questions and Discussion

# 2025 Bill Introduction

# Discussion of Bills 2025

- This year the Policy Team has identified bills in the following policy categories:
  - Civil Rights
  - Education
  - Human Services (Informal/Formal Community Supports)
  - Health
  - Safety

# Discussion of Bills 2025

During this next part of the meeting:

- We will discuss each bill
- We want to know what you think of each bill
- LPPC Members will vote to either support or not support each bill
  
- **Please Note:** The Policy Team has identified additional **intent** and **spot** bills not included in this presentation. These bills lack complete language at the time of their introduction and have a deadline set for mid-March 2025

We will continue tracking them and present them to LPPC for review once their details become clear.

# Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act #1

- Bill: [SB 470 \(Laird\)](#) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing
- **What will this bill do?** Would delete the January 1, 2026, repeal date for teleconference meeting requirements.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires, with exceptions, that all meetings of a state agency/dept be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The Act also allows teleconference meetings with specific guidance, but this would expire on January 1, 2026.

# Civil Rights #1

- **Bill:** [AB 1225 \(Bennett\)](#) State parks and state beaches: Accessibility Advisory Committee
- **What will this bill do?** Require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish an **Accessibility Advisory Committee** and make recommendations for improving the accessibility of the state park system and state beaches for individuals with disabilities. (none fiscal bill)
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** It is a first step- not requiring changes and non-fiscal. Persons with disabilities experience loneliness more than their peers without disabilities. This bill can potentially/eventually lead to more recreation and social opportunities for persons with I/DD.

# Education #1

- **Bill:** [AB 784 \(Hoover\)](#) Special education
- **What will this bill do?** Would add specialized deaf and hard of hearing services to services included in special education.
- **Position Recommended:** Support

# Education #2

- **Bill:** [SB 244 \(Grayson\)](#) Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments
- **What will this bill do?** This bill would require California State University and encourage the University of California to cover the cost of learning disability assessments for students who receive financial aid or qualify for support from their school's health or disability center.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** This is a reintroduction of [AB 624 \(Grayson\)](#) from last year. It passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor due to budget concerns. However, some vetoed bills have been passed in later years, even during economic downturns.



# Education #3

- **Bill:** [SB 389 \(Ochoa-Bogh\)](#) Pupil health: individuals with exceptional needs: specialized physical health care services
- **What will this bill do?** Would authorize a licensed vocational nurse, under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse, to perform specialized physical health care services.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** By adding licensed vocational nurse, it might make it easier for students with disabilities who require health care services to get these services at school.

# Health #1

- **Bill:** [AB 277 \(Alanis\)](#) Behavioral health centers, facilities, and programs: background checks
- **What will this bill do?** Would require *any* person providing behavioral health treatment in a health center, facility, or program to undergo background checks.
- **Position:** LPPC Discussion: Do you think we should support?

# Health #2

- **Bill:** [AB 308 \(Ramos\)](#) **The Family Urgent Response System**
- **What will this bill do?** This bill would allow county behavioral health directors to develop procedures for mobile response teams, which may include guidelines for handling emergencies involving individuals with **autism, behavioral health issues, or other developmental disabilities**. These procedures must include de-escalation techniques that consider the individual's specific needs to ensure their safety and well-being.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** We have received feedback on this issue several times and for several years via the *There Should Be a Law Contest*. Family advocates share that the current system is inadequate to help them get assistance for their children with I/DD when in a behavioral crisis.

# Health #3

- **Bill:** [AB 315 \(Bonta\)](#) Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver
- **What will this bill do?** This bill would remove the current cap on Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver slots and would instead require the enrollment of all eligible individuals who apply for the HCBA Waiver. By March 1, 2026, the department must request any necessary changes to the waiver to ensure enough capacity for all eligible individuals currently on the waiting list.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** The ADHAC Coalition (Aging & Disability Homelessness Advocacy Coalition) has recommended making the HCBA Waiver available to all eligible individuals by adding **10,000 slots** per year starting in 2024. Currently, DHCS **increases slots by only 1,800 per year**, which does not meet demand.

# Health #4

- **Bill:** [AB 350 \(Bonta\)](#) Health care coverage: fluoride treatments
- **What will this bill do?** Adds fluoride treatment as a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program for children under 21 years of age.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** As with any benefit, consent will be required to provide this benefit.

# Health #5

- **Bill:** [AB 517 \(Krell\)](#) Medi-Cal: complex rehabilitation technology: wheelchairs
- **What will this bill do?** It prohibits prior authorization for repairs of wheelchairs, in cases where the repairs are less than \$1,250. Also, a treatment authorization request for repair or replacement of a CRT-powered wheelchair would not require an individual prescription or documentation of medical necessity from the treating practitioner if the CRT-powered wheelchair has already been approved for use by the patient.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Why is it important?** Persons with wheelchairs would be able to get wheelchair repairs or replacements faster – so they can return to their lives (work/school/appointments) and not be burdened for not having access to the wheelchairs they need.

# Health #6

- **Bill:** [AB 951 \(Ta\)](#) Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses
- **What will this bill do?** Starting January 1, 2026, would not allow a health care service plan or health insurance policy to require a person who is already diagnosed with a developmental disorder or autism to be re-evaluated for the purposes of maintaining insurance coverage for behavioral health treatment for their condition.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** LPPC supported this bill last year as [AB 1977](#) (Ta). Though it passed both houses, it was vetoed by the Governor. In his veto message, the Governor states that the evaluation process should not be entirely prohibited.

# Health #7

- **Bill:** [AB 974 \(Patterson\)](#) Medi-Cal managed care plans: exemption from mandatory enrollment
- **What does bill do?** Would exempt some people from mandatory enrollment in a Medi-Cal managed care plan. This includes dual eligible and non-dual-eligible beneficiaries who receive services from a regional center and who use a Medi-Cal fee-for-service delivery system as a secondary form of health care coverage
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** This is currently a *spot bill*. This means the bill is a placeholder where the language for the bill will be introduced later.



# Health #8

- **Bill:** [SB 363 \(Wiener\)](#) Health care coverage: independent medical review
- **What will this bill do?** Would require a health care service plan or health insurer to annually report its number of treatment denials or modifications, commencing on or before June 1, 2026.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** Relates to private insurance only – there is need for accountability and transparency in private/commercial health with respect to denials of necessary, life-saving care. Health plans are denying lifesaving care to members. But there is no way to know how many people are experiencing denial of health services.

# Health #9

- **Bill:** [SB 660 \(Menjivar\)](#) California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework
- **What will the bill do?** Among other things, it would require the Center for Data Insights and Innovation to take over the establishment, implementation, and all the functions related to the **California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework**, including the data sharing agreement and policies and procedures, from the agency. The bill would expand the California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework to include **social services** information.
- **Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion.
- **Note:** this bill is subject to appropriation of funds in the budget.

# Informal & Formal Community Supports #1

- **Bill:** [AB 617 \(McKinnor\)](#) Aging and Disability Resource Connection program: No Wrong Door System
- **What will bill do?** Establishes a **statewide respite referral registry** to connect consumers enrolled in the Medi-Cal program with culturally competent, prescreened respite providers, no later than 12/31/27.
- **Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion.
- **Note:** More about ***No Wrong Door System***: Currently, law requires the California Department of Aging to administer the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Infrastructure Grants Program for the purpose of implementing a (No Wrong Door) system that enables consumers to access all LTSS through one agency, organization, coordinated network, or portal.

# Informal & Formal Community Supports #2

- **Bill:** [AB 1099 \(Bryan\)](#) Developmental services: initial intake: assessment
- **What will bill do?** This bill would change the initial intake process for foster children at regional centers. If a regional center has not determined eligibility or provisional eligibility within 15 days of a request for assistance, it must refer the foster child for and conduct an additional assessment. The bill would also prohibit denying an additional assessment solely due to missing documentation.
- **Position Recommended:** Support

# Informal & Formal Community Supports #3

- **Bill:** [AB 1172 \(Nguyen\)](#) Adult Day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications
- **What will this bill do?** Would allow a licensed facility staff to train on how to respond to seizures and to administer anti-seizure medication, and to create standards for the trainings.
- **Position Recommended:** Support
- **Note:** A family advocate reached out to us last year. Her son could not attend any work programs because he was prone to seizures and staff could not administer the nasal spray needed even if they wanted to help. But in schools, staff could administer the nasal spray so he could attend school.

# Informal & Formal Community Supports #4

- **Bill:** [AB 1335 \(Gonzalez, Jeff\)](#) Habilitation services
- **What will this bill do?** Would remove the requirement for a work activity program or supported employment program to comply with the requirements of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and would instead require a regional center to monitor, evaluate, and audit habilitation services providers for program effectiveness.
- **Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion.
- **Note:** If this bill passes, there would be less oversight of these work programs. Further, many consider a CARF accreditation as a mark of quality for a program, which can help individuals when looking for a provider. On the other hand, CARF compliance can be burdensome for smaller providers, and this causes shortage of providers available.

# Informal & Formal Community Supports #5

- **Bill:** [SB 471 \(Menjivar\)](#) Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson
- **What will bill do?** This bill would establish the Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson as an independent office within the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities resolve issues related to their care, placement, or services. The office's duties would include providing information, training, and technical assistance, as well as receiving and possibly investigating complaints from or on behalf of consumers of developmental services. The bill would also require the Lanterman Ombudsperson to oversee the Office of the Self-Determination Ombudsperson.
- **Position Recommended:** LPPC Discussion.

# Safety #1

- **Bill:** [SB 671\(Cervantes\)](#) Pedestrian crossing signals
- **What would this bill do?** Would require pedestrian signals to have an APS pushbutton or **touch-free accessible** pedestrian signal that activates “WALK” or “DON’T WALK” intervals and other visual signals at signalized intersections in **nonvisual formats**. It would also require all existing state-owned or -operated traffic signals located in the certain specific areas be identified and recorded in the Caltrans Management System inventory database to assist future annual operational review requirements and coordination with local agencies for delegated signals.
- **Position Recommended:** Support.
- **Why is this important?** Makes cross walks safer and accessible for persons with disabilities.



Any  
Questions?

