

BILL LIST and OUTCOMES – 2014

The Senior Services Coalition identified and followed a handful of bills in California's 2014 legislative session. Below is a summary of those bills and what happened to them:

SB 391 (DeSaulnier), Homes and Jobs Act – would create funding for building low-income and affordable housing for families, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and homeless.

Outcome - While SB 391 did not advance through the Assembly this year, the campaign crystallized the need for funding for affordable housing. As a result, the 2014-15 state budget included a number of key wins for Californians in need of affordable homes, including: \$50 million to fund multifamily supportive housing, and at least 10 percent of the ongoing revenue from cap-and-trade to fund affordable homes (estimated to be \$200 - \$300 million per year starting in 2015).

AB 1552 (Lowenthal) – would codify CBAS as a Medi-Cal benefit, ensuring coverage for Adult Day Health Care for those who are eligible.

Outcome – While AB 1552 was passed unanimously by the legislature, Governor Brown vetoed the bill, saying it was unnecessary. The veto DOES NOT mean the demise of CBAS as a Medi-Cal benefit, but passage of the bill would have provided a more secure future.

AB 1805 (Skinner) – would restore the 10% Medi-Cal rate cuts of 2010 for all providers.

Outcome – While AB 1805 had 29 co-authors in the Assembly and six co-authors in the Senate, it didn't progress further than the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The issue was taken up in the budget debate, resulting in the restoration of some rates for providers, including PACE, but excluding CBAS/Adult Day Health.

AB 1882 (Cooley) – would grant kinship parity for CalWORKS benefits, so that foster children being cared for by grandparents and other kin can access the same benefits as children who live with non-relatives.

Outcome – AB 1882 made it all the way to the Senate Appropriations Committee before it died. The campaign was successful, however. The 14/15 state budget includes the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program, which will allow counties to provide state foster care funding to foster children who currently receive CalWORKs benefits. Counties have to opt in in order to get the funding from the state and the program specifies that the state will cover 100% of the cost of the program for the existing population of foster children placed with relatives.

AB 2025 (Jones-Sawyer) – would raise the threshold for Medi-Cal Share Of Cost to 138% Federal Poverty Level, bringing it in parity with the ACA. Currently the effective threshold is 128%. The increase would be accomplished by increasing the income disregards.

Outcome – Even though AB 2025 was supported by the Assembly Health Committee, it didn't make it out of the Assembly.