

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 5, 2024

State Issues	
<p>Bill Introduction Deadline Looms</p>	<p>One week remains before the new bill introduction deadline (February 16), and bills are just beginning to trickle in. While we are waiting for the full picture of bills, there is one key bill to highlight:</p> <p><b>AB 2200 (Kalra): Guaranteed Health Care for All.</b> There is a renewed effort by the California Progressive Caucus and California Nurses Association to institute single payer health care in California. It will take some time to fully review the 78 page bill, but from an initial review the framework is very similar to year's past: all health care to all residents would be provided through Cal Care; California health care providers would only be able to provide care within the Cal Care system; the system will be governed by a board comprised of Gubernatorial and Legislative appointees; and, all current federal funding for health care services (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, etc.) would be block granted to the state for CalCare services. Cost estimates to implement previous versions were between \$400-\$500 billion. It is worth noting, however, that it is an election year and the Chairs of the Assembly Health and Appropriations Committees along with the new Speaker and Senate ProTem are all on record supporting single payer health care.</p>
<p>New Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire</p>	<p>The Senate swore in a new leader on Monday. New Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire held an exuberant swearing in ceremony, which included a gospel choir, a slam poet, antics from his 4-year-old son in attendance, and speeches of admiration from many of his colleagues.</p> <p>The Democrat from Healdsburg will now lead his colleagues in the Senate that will put him in charge of representing the Senate's interests in budget negotiations with the Governor, shaping all major policy issues, and appointing his colleagues to the various leadership positions within the Senate. McGuire's new job will not be an easy one, with a \$60+ billion deficit to tackle in the next few months and lawmakers already looking to replace him. McGuire terms out in 2026 and the jockeying to be the next Pro Tem is already in action.</p> <p>McGuire represents a large, rural district covering the entire north coast from San Francisco to the Oregon border. Per news reports, this is the first time since 1866 that a lawmaker from the north coast is leading the Senate. With his rural ties – coupled with those of new Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas from agricultural Hollister – there is a clear distinction at least in part from the last leaders. The question remains though, what role will that tie between the two leaders mean for the policies that emanate from the Legislature.</p>
<p>New Senate Committee Assignments</p>	<p>With new leadership in the Senate comes new leaders for the various budget and policy committees – full list attached. The following highlight a few that will impact health care policies moving forward.</p>

*(more)*

New Senate  
Committee  
Assignments  
(continued)

- Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced) has been named chair of the powerful **Appropriations Committee**. This committee is the gate keeper for any bills that have any potential impact on the State General Fund and is a frequent stop for bills with political objections.
- Senator Scott Weiner (D-San Francisco) will have the heavy role of leading the **Senate Budget Committee**, tasked with seeing the state through its \$60 billion deficit.
- Senator Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento) will chair the **Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee**, which oversees, among other things, licensing Board and regulations related to health care professionals.
- Senator Richard Roth (D-Riverside) may have been the surprise of the announcements and has been named chair of the **Senate Health Committee**. All health policy bills will go through his committee. He is termed out and running for Riverside County Board of Supervisors, but he'll make a big impact in the year he has to lead the Committee. The other members of the Health Committee are:
  - Senator Janet Nguyen (R-Huntington Beach), Vice-Chair
  - Senator Steven M. Glazer (D-Contra Costa)
  - Senator Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)
  - Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield)
  - Senator Melissa Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)
  - Senator Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara)
  - Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-San Fernando Valley)
  - Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park)
  - Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles)
  - Senator Scott D. Wiener (D-San Francisco)
- Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-San Fernando Valley) remains chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Health. Her committee members are:
  - Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton)
  - Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield)
  - Senator Richard D. Roth (D-Riverside)

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