

# 2026 CHILDREN'S HEALTH EQUITY LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET AGENDA

## BILLS

### AB 2126 (Elhawary) The PEER Act

**Establishes automatic background check exemptions for current and former foster youth to become peer mentors**, reducing employment barriers and expanding opportunities for system-involved youth, particularly youth of color, who are disproportionately impacted by low-level criminal records compared to their white, non-system-involved peers.

**AB 2201 (Boerner)  
Medi-Cal: Eligibility Redetermination**  
**Reinstates proven Medi-Cal eligibility strategies to simplify renewals, reduce coverage losses, and ease county workloads** so staff can focus on H.R. 1 implementation, helping keep California's children and families covered.



### *Other supported bills*

#### **SB 1422 (Durazo) Medi-Cal eligibility: immigration status**

Ends Medi-Cal enrollment freeze for certain immigrants ages 19+

**AB 2161 (Bonta)  
Medi-Cal:  
work or community engagement**  
Stops work requirements for some immigrant communities covered by state-funded Medi-Cal

**AB 2600 (Bonta)  
Right to counsel for  
Californians facing deportation**  
Guarantees due process for Californians, prioritizing those in immigration detention

## BUDGET

### **\$750,000 Community Health Worker Medi-Cal Benefit Report**

One-time allocation to DHCS to **produce a report on utilization of the Medi-Cal CHW/P/R Medi-Cal benefit**. This report would include an analysis of benefit usage, provider participation, equity impacts, and system barriers.

### *Other supported budget items*

**\$4 million for CHW/P/Rs** to help Californians stay covered through health navigation

**Reject work requirements** for some immigrant communities covered by state-funded Medi-Cal

**Rollback proposed Medi-Cal cuts** and end the enrollment freeze for immigrant communities

**\$50 million increase for  
deportation defense services**



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