



Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline



Letter From The Director

Greetings! Welcome to CHBRP's Winter Newsletter.

The national political and policy landscape has changed dramatically in recent weeks, and even transitions among our team have me humming Bob Dylan's, **The Times They Are A-Changin'**. Remarkably, this wonderful classic remains timeless, as does the nature of change. In this issue, we say farewell to John Lewis, who earned his stripes through 17 years of dedicated service to CHBRP.

We also share the news announcing our new Associate Director! After an open search, I am delighted to share the news that Adara Citron has been promoted to Associate Director. More details below. Finally, we'll introduce our new incoming Principal Analyst (who starts in mid-February) in our next issue.



CHBRP has received its first two legislative bill analysis requests, Senate Bill 40 Insulin and Assembly Bill 298 Health Care Coverage Cost Sharing, with more to come. The Health Committees have also asked CHBRP to support their upcoming Joint Informational Hearing on 2027 Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Options. The hearing will be on February 11th at 1:30 pm (located at 1021 O Street, Room 1100 in Sacramento). We'll be there!

In this issue, we are delighted to welcome a new member of CHBRP's National Advisory Council and invite you to our upcoming legislative briefing series.

Finally, as a reminder, CHBRP provides the option for public submission during the first 14 days of a bill analysis. While this is not a public comment process, it allows interested parties to submit information they believe may be pertinent for our analytic teams to consider in their work.

I'll close with my personal condolences to any of our readers directly and indirectly impacted by the horrendous fires in southern California. The scale and severity of those impacts are hard to conceptualize.

Until next time.

Warmly,
Garen

Updates from CHBRP

Farewell, John Lewis!

After more than 17 years of dedicated service and leadership with CHBRP, our former Associate Director, John Lewis, has retired! John has been an integral part of CHBRP, and he is deeply missed. Over his tenure, John led dozens of analyses of California legislation, always bringing his trademark humor and deep insights to the team. CHBRP staff have valued his ability to see the nuance and impart wisdom from all parts of his life, and we know many of our readers knew John well.



John is looking forward to his next chapter, which we are confident will be filled with many adventures. We wish him joy as he experiences his first relaxing Spring in almost two decades and express our deep gratitude for his hard work!

Our New Associate Director

We're thrilled to announce the promotion of Adara Citron as CHBRP's new Associate Director. Bringing 9 dedicated years of CHBRP service, Adara has continued to help the program meet its challenging assignments and improve the operations and analysis that the Program provides.



Before joining CHBRP, Adara was a Program Analyst with the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority, and previously, she was a Policy Associate with the Kaiser Family Foundation's Women's Health Policy team. Adara holds a Master of Public Health in Health Policy from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration from San Jose State University. Please join me in congratulating (and thanking) Adara!

**CHBRP's Annual
Legislative Briefing**



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

www.chbrp.org



FEBRUARY 13, 2025

1 PM

Get an introduction or refresher on what the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) is and what happens if a bill gets referred there.

If you are working on, voting on, or reviewing legislation related to health insurance this year, you will hear about bills being referred to CHBRP. Not familiar with us? No problem! We invite you and your colleagues to our annual legislative briefing to introduce you to CHBRP.

Join us on **Thursday, February 13th** at 1:00 pm for a virtual introduction to the program and hear about new resources we've developed to support the Legislature and stakeholders working on California health policy.

[Register Here](#)

CHBRP's Analyses

With the bill introduction deadline fast approaching, CHBRP is ready to analyze bills when requested by the Legislature. All requests will be posted to the "**Recent Requests**" page. Interested parties are able to submit relevant information CHBRP may find useful in its analysis of legislation.

So far, CHBRP has received two requests:

- **Senate Bill 40 (Wiener) Insulin**
- **Assembly Bill 298 (Bonta) Health care coverage cost sharing**

All previously completed analyses are also available on CHBRP's website.

[Recent Requests](#)

[Completed Analyses](#)

How many bills will CHBRP analyze in 2025?

Take your best guess! The winner(s) will be announced in our Spring Newsletter and tagged on social media. Last year, we analyzed 10 bills, but in 2023 we analyzed 22! What will 2025 have in store for us?



[Take me to the survey!](#)

Welcome to CHBRP's New

NAC Member!

CHBRP is pleased to welcome a new member of its National Advisory Council. A subset of NAC members review each CHBRP analysis, and we are looking forward to benefiting from Dr. Talwar's expertise. Learn more about these all our members on CHBRP's [website](#).



Ruchika Talwar, MD, MMHC, is a urologic oncologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Medical Director in the Episodes of Care Office, where she leads and operationalizes VUMC's specialty value-based care programs, including Medicare models and the innovative MyHealth Bundles program. Her clinical practice includes both robotic and open approaches to urologic cancer surgery, with a focus on patient-centered care.

National Advisory Council Members

Recent and Upcoming Publications



Health Insurance Benefit Mandates in California State and Federal Law

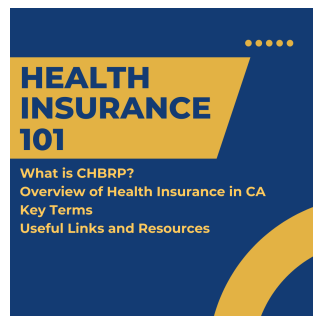
See a list of benefit mandates that are applicable to state-regulated health insurance.



As California reconsiders its **Essential Health Benefits** selection, take a look at CHBRP's Health Care Nuts and Bolts for an overview of this topic.



Take a look at CHBRP's **Year in Review for 2024!** CHBRP is proud to contribute to evidence-based policymaking in California.



CHBRP's **Health Insurance 101** Resource is a useful refresher on key topics. Share with others who are new to health insurance and health policy!



Federal Recommendations and the California and Federal Preventive Services Benefit Mandates

CHBRP recently updated its resource identifying potential overlap between federal and state mandates requiring coverage of preventive services.



CHBRP is finalizing three of our annually updated resources:

- Sources of Health Insurance in California
- Pharmacy Benefit Coverage in State-Regulated Health Insurance
- Deductibles in State-Regulated Health Insurance

We'll host a webinar after these products are updated to review key takeaways, as well as other helpful resources. Stay tuned!

See all of the above materials and many more on CHBRP's [website](#).

[See all Resources](#)

[See all Nuts and Bolts](#)

[About Us](#)

[Complete Analyses](#)

[Recent Requests](#)

[Contact Us](#)

California Health Benefits Review Program

University of California, Berkeley MC 3116

Berkeley, CA 94720-3116

Phone: (510) 664-5306

[Get In Touch](#)



California Health Benefits Review Program | MC 3116 | Berkeley, CA 94720 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!