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Date: September 8, 2011
To: California Indian Healthcare Representatives
From: Mark LeBeau, MS, Health Policy Analyst
Subject: California Legislative session nearing end

The deadline for the California Legislature to pass bills out of both houses is September 9th. The deadline for Governor Brown to sign or veto these bills is October 9th. Below is a list of bills related to health and health reform and their status in the legislative process.

AB 968 authored by Assemblymember Chesbro has been placed on hold for this session. It will be taken up in the next session. This bill requires all State agencies, including the Health and Human Services Agency, to cooperate with Federally recognized Tribes on matters of economic development and improvement for the Tribes. It requires every agency adopt a policy of communication and consultation with elected Tribal officials. The Governor is required to meet annually with these officials, regardless of whether a Tribe qualifies as a Federally recognized Tribe. It establishes the position of a Native American Advisor on Tribal Issues in the Governor's office, to be a member of a Federally recognized Tribe. It requires the advisor to serve as a resource to the Governor and agencies on issues affecting Tribes and to be an advocate on behalf of all Tribes.

AB 516 authored by Assemblymember Perez has passed the Legislature and is on the Governor's desk. The bill requires the State to consider the benefit to disadvantaged communities as part of its criteria for awarding local grants for construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and traffic calming projects under its Safe Routes to Schools initiative.

AB 581 authored by Assemblymember Perez has passed the Legislature and is on the Governor's desk. The bill establishes the Healthy Food Financing Initiative Fund for the purpose of expanding access to healthy foods in underserved communities.

AB 441 authored by Assemblymember Monning has been placed on hold for this session. The bill requires health and equity criteria in the guidelines the State uses when advising local governments on land use, transportation planning and development. Decisions about land use and transportation systems can impact rates of health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, depression, unintended injuries, and some cancers. By requiring the incorporation of health indicators into comprehensive planning and community design documents and guidelines, California will promote innovative approaches to improving our neighborhoods and creating a healthier and more prosperous State.

AB 1296 authored by Assemblymember Bonilla is pending. The bill streamlines eligibility and enrollment of participants into Medi-Cal, Health Exchange and other services.

AB 922 authored by Assemblymember Monning is pending. The bill improves health care patient assistance for those who have questions or concerns about health care and their rights under current

law. It moves the Office of the Patient Advocate and the Department of Managed Health Care to the Health and Human Services Agency.

AB 1083 authored by Assemblymember Monning is pending. The bill changes the small group market and enhances the ability of small businesses and the self-employed to buy affordable health care.

AB 52 authored by Assemblymember Feuer has been placed on hold for this session. The bill provides State regulators authority to deny rate increases by health insurance companies.

SB 51 authored by Senator Alquist is pending. The bill requires health insurance companies to spend 85% of premium dollars on health care in the large group market and 80% of premium dollars in the individual and small group markets.

ABX1 21 authored by Assemblymember Blumenfield is pending. The bill extends the Managed Care Organization Tax to July 2012 and prevents the State from adopting the plan to move kids from Healthy Families into Medi-Cal. A related bill, **ABX1 30**, also authored by Assemblymember Blumenfield is pending; appropriates funding for Healthy Families. Two similar bills exist in the Senate, **SBx1 9** and **SBx1 12** and are pending.

AB 210 authored by Assemblymember Hernandez and **SB 222** authored by Senators Evans and Alquist are similar bills and are pending. The bills require health insurance companies include maternity services as part of group coverage.