
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2531 (Irwin) - Public health: abortion services

Version: March 16, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 1, M.&V.A. 4 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2531 would expand the Uncompensated Care Program to provide services to veterans, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, to provide services to eligible veterans.
- The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) indicates minor and absorbable costs for state administration.
- The California Department of Veterans Affairs anticipates minor and absorbable costs to add and maintain the website link.

Background: The HCAI administers the Uncompensated Care Program. As originally established, the purpose of the program is to ensure abortion and contraception are affordable for and accessible to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, and to provide financial support for safety net providers of these services to offset the costs of providing uncompensated care to patients with low incomes who would otherwise lack access to care.

State law authorizes a Medi-Cal enrolled provider, as determined by the Department of Health Care Services, to apply for a grant, and a continuation award after the initial grant, under the Uncompensated Care Program if they agree to provide abortion and contraception services in accordance with certain requirements. The Medi-Cal enrolled provider may use a grant to provide services at no cost or a reduced cost to an individual with a household income at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level who meets both of the following criteria:

- Is uninsured or has health care coverage that does not include both abortion and contraception.
- Is not otherwise eligible to receive both abortion and contraception at no cost through the Medi-Cal and Family PACT programs.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Expand the Uncompensated Care Program to cover the costs of providing services at no cost or a reduced cost to an individual who is a veteran, as defined, who meets both of the following criteria:
 - Has health care coverage that does not include abortion or is unable to access abortion or contraception care through the Department of Veterans Affairs health system.
 - Is not otherwise eligible to receive both abortion and contraception care at no cost through the Medi-Cal and Family PACT programs.
- Require the California Department of Veterans Affairs to publish a link to the abortion.ca.gov internet website on the women veterans resources page of the department's internet website.

Related Legislation: The Budget Act of 2026 includes an augmentation of \$30 million General Fund for the Uncompensated Care Program. SB 164 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2026), the health budget trailer bill, expands the Uncompensated Care Program to also support gender-affirming care services.

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