



**COVERED
CALIFORNIA**

Media Clips

COVERED CALIFORNIA BOARD CLIPS

Apr. 25, 2026 – May 31, 2026

Since our last board meeting, the media coverage includes:

- Fallout of expiration of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits start to show with higher costs and reduced enrollment
- A print-ready article written by Covered California discussing mental health coverage
- Gov. Newsom proposes \$300 million in state subsidies to support lower health premiums for low-income Californians
- CMS announces rules changes affecting enrollees on ACA exchanges
- Debate over a policy proposal to create a single payer healthcare system in California
- Cigna exits ACA marketplaces
- California gubernatorial candidates debate over healthcare
- Major parties weigh affordability options, particularly around healthcare, ahead of midterm elections
- Federal government freezes Medicaid funds

PRESS RELEASES

[Covered California Welcomes Deborah Reidy Kelch to Its Board of Directors](#)
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PRINT & BROADCAST

Articles of Significance

[ACA marketplace constraints reduce hospital revenue, shift payer mix](#)
Healthcare Financial Management Association Apr. 27, 2026

[Centene’s Obamacare Enrollment Drops By 2 Million After Congress Strips Subsidies](#)
Forbes..... Apr. 28, 2026

[The Bill For Democrats’ Next Obamacare Subsidy ‘Crisis’ Will Come Due Next Tax Season](#)
The Federalist..... Apr. 28, 2026

<u>County estimates up to 50,000 residents could lose medical coverage under HR 1</u>	
Bakersfield.com	Apr. 28, 2026
<u>Hospital CEOs defend charging patients more at facilities</u>	
NBC News	Apr. 28, 2026
<u>Make Mental Health A Priority</u>	
IndiaWest.....	Apr. 29, 2026
<u>Americans are dropping their employer healthcare to save up to \$1,000 a month</u>	
The Independent.....	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>Potential Expiration of Tax Credits and Medicaid Unwinding Threaten Progress in Health Equity</u>	
AJMC	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>They're in remission, but their medical bills aren't: Cancer survivors navigate soaring costs</u>	
The Sacramento Bee	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>Can California Make Single-Payer Healthcare Happen?</u>	
Bloomberg.....	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>Why is spending on health care slowing?</u>	
Brookings.....	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>369,000 to Lose Obamacare Coverage After Insurer Exits—How to See If You're Affected</u>	
Inc.....	Apr. 30, 2026
<u>Since Congress Let Obamacare Subsidies Expire, Millions Are Dropping Coverage</u>	
The New York Times	May 1, 2026
<u>State legislature quietly shelves latest single payer health care bill</u>	
CALÓ News	May 1, 2026
<u>GOP May Try to Blow Up Obamacare Again This Year</u>	
New York Magazine.....	May 1, 2026
<u>The number of people opting out of Obamacare far exceeded expectations.</u>	
Sing Tao Daily.....	May 2, 2026
<u>Republicans see high-risk plans as the future of health insurance</u>	
POLITICO	May 3, 2026
<u>Make Mental Health a Priority; Explore insurance options that fit your needs and budget with Covered California</u>	
Philippine News	May 3, 2026

<u>Analysis of New California Health Insurance Rules in Covered California 2026: Why You May Owe Thousands</u>	
City Spotlight.....	May 4, 2026
<u>Breaking the Mental Health Stigma of “What Happens in this house Stays in this House”</u>	
L.A. Sentinel.....	May 6, 2026
<u>Nearly half of Californians don't have 'much trust' in health care system: poll</u>	
Allie Rasmus.....	May 7, 2026
<u>Democratic candidates revive single-payer promise as California’s healthcare system faces strain</u>	
The Mercury News.....	May 7, 2026
<u>Insurers’ bright start to 2026</u>	
POLITICO	May 7, 2026
<u>California advocates push state Senate healthcare funding plan amid looming federal cuts</u>	
ABC 10	May 7, 2026
<u>Big health systems blamed for affordability crisis</u>	
Insurance NewsNet.....	May 7, 2026
<u>What California’s Next Governor Needs to Know about Health Care</u>	
Public Policy Institute of California	May 7, 2026
<u>In California Governor Race, Single-Payer Is a Litmus Test. There’s Still No Way To Pay for It.</u>	
KFF Health News.....	May 8, 2026
<u>GOP braces for high-stakes 2027 spending fight with midterms looming</u>	
The Hill.....	May 8, 2026
<u>ACA enrollment losses reshape insurers’ 2026 outlook</u>	
Modern Healthcare	May 8, 2026
<u>ACA Marketplace premiums are rising sharply. What caused this?"</u>	
NPR	May 9, 2026
<u>Health insurance marketplace feels growing tremors from GOP cuts</u>	
The Hill.....	May 10, 2026
<u>Report: Latinos face 'unprecedented' health coverage losses amid cuts to Medicaid, ACA</u>	
WUSF	May 10, 2026

California’s uninsured population may double by 2030: Report	
Becker’s Hospital Review.....	May 11, 2026
Exclusive ACA Enrollment Numbers	
NOTUS	May 12, 2026
Health program cuts hit home, fueling blame game	
Axios	May 12, 2026
Newsom announces \$300M proposal for health insurance	
POLITICO	May 12, 2026
2026 Healthcare Costs Could Become a Defining Issue for American Families	
The Cincinnati Exchange	May 12, 2026
ACA exchanges take spotlight in Q1	
Fierce Healthcare.....	May 13, 2026
Pa. has seen 145K cancel ACA coverage amid monthly cost spikes	
USA Today.....	May 13, 2026
Exclusive: Dr. Oz announces health coalition to streamline prior authorizations	
Axios	May 13, 2026
Newsom offers early peek at rosy budget projections	
Los Angeles Times	May 14, 2026
The U.S. Saved \$1 Trillion on Health Care. Why Doesn’t It Feel Like It?	
Tradeoffs.....	May 14, 2026
California must financially prepare for federal Medi-Cal cuts now Opinion	
The Sacramento Bee	May 14, 2026
The United States May Be the Best Place to Build Universal Health Care	
The Fulcrum.....	May 14, 2026
Trump officials hit California with ‘largest ever’ freeze on Medicaid funds	
CalMatters.....	May 14, 2026
Predictions of a mass exodus from Obamacare are coming true	
MS Now	May 14, 2026
Free primary care for all: Democratic think tank pushes the party on new health policy	
NBC News	May 15, 2026
CMS pulls back limits on non-standard ACA plans in final rule	
Fierce Healthcare.....	May 15, 2026

<u>Axios Future of Health Summit: U.S. health care prices are unsustainable, leaders agree</u>	
Axios	May 15, 2026
<u>Impact of ACA Changes on Health Insurance Accessibility</u>	
InsuraSales	May 16, 2026
<u>Trump Is Making America Uninsured Again</u>	
Truthout.....	May 16, 2026
<u>CMS revises ACA Exchange rules for 2027</u>	
Yahoo!	May 18, 2026
<u>Trump touts a major TrumpRx expansion, adding more than 600 generic drugs</u>	
Associated Press	May 18, 2026
<u>TrumpRx site adds hundreds of generic drugs</u>	
Axios	May 18, 2026
<u>Eroding ACA enrollment portends higher insurance rates</u>	
CBS News.....	May 19, 2026
<u>Obamacare outlook dims</u>	
POLITICO	May 19, 2026
<u>Millions expected to lose Affordable Care Act coverage as costs spike</u>	
The Washington Post.....	May 19, 2026
<u>Steep drop in number of people with Affordable Care Act health coverage, analysis finds</u>	
NPR	May 19, 2026
<u>ACA exchange enrollment likely to decline by at least 17% this year: KFF</u>	
Fierce Healthcare.....	May 19, 2026
<u>CMS expands access to catastrophic health insurance coverage</u>	
Healthcare Finance.....	May 19, 2026
<u>What We Know So Far About 2026 ACA Marketplace Enrollment, Premiums, and Deductibles</u>	
KFF	May 19, 2026
<u>5M people may drop coverage from ACA marketplaces: Analysis</u>	
The Hill.....	May 19, 2026
<u>Affordable Care Act enrollment projected to plunge by 5 million as costs spike, analysis shows</u>	
Associated Press	May 19, 2026

<u>Republicans Want to Change How You Buy Health Care</u>	
Tradeoffs.....	May 21, 2026
<u>How healthy is the Inland Empire’s healthcare system?</u>	
The Press-Enterprise	May 21, 2026
<u>ACAP warns final ACA rule adds further uncertainty to a market in flux</u>	
Fierce Healthcare.....	May 22, 2026
<u>With midterms looming, HHS and states at odds over cause of lagging Obamacare signups</u>	
POLITICO	May 25, 2026
<u>When new California laws kicked in, thousands of immigrants dropped or lost Medicaid coverage</u>	
KVPR	May 26, 2026
<u>Health insurers point fingers over affordability woes</u>	
Axios	May 26, 2026
<u>Over Two Million More Californians Projected to Lack Health Insurance by 2030</u>	
UCLA	May 26, 2026
<u>New ACA rules may leave consumers with harder health plan choices</u>	
The Sacramento Bee	May 27, 2026
<u>Trump couldn’t kill Obamacare, so he made it more expensive</u>	
USA Today.....	May 27, 2026
<u>About 8% of the country lacked health insurance in 2025, new data shows. That could rise next year</u>	
Associated Press	May 27, 2026
<u>The Republican assault on Obamacare has created a healthcare bloodbath, with worse yet to come</u>	
Los Angeles Times	May 28, 2026
<u>CMS finalizes changes to No Surprises Act dispute resolution process</u>	
Fierce Healthcare.....	May 28, 2026
<u>Sacramento woman says insurance was nearly canceled over citizenship error</u>	
ABC 10	May 28, 2026
<u>Millions of Americans are losing their health insurance</u>	
Vox.....	May 29, 2026
<u>Some employers are putting health insurance in workers’ hands. Here’s how it’s going.</u>	
Healthcare Brew	May 29, 2026

[How California's Public Purchasers Are Joining Forces to Strengthen Primary Care](#)

California Health Care Foundation.....May 29, 2026



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2026

Covered California Welcomes Deborah Reidy Kelch to Its Board of Directors

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Deborah Reidy Kelch has been named the newest member of Covered California’s Board of Directors after her appointment by the Speaker of the California Assembly. She fills the seat recently vacated by the departing Sumi Sousa. Her term on the board will run through Jan. 1, 2029.

Kelch’s career spanned more than four decades, in which she worked as a health policy researcher and recognized expert before retiring in 2020. She served for 15 years as a policy and fiscal consultant to the California Legislature, including as a senior consultant and chief consultant to the Assembly Health Committee. She has been a legislative aide to multiple elected officials, staff to the Assembly and Senate committees on aging, and budget staff with the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

“Deborah spent her career working tirelessly to improve equitable access to health insurance for Californians and brings a breadth of experience in research, policy and advocacy to the board,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. “As we continue to navigate ongoing challenges and changes to federal health policy, we are thrilled to have Deborah’s vast knowledge and dedication to help us meet our mission of providing high-quality health insurance for all Californians.”

For nearly two decades, Kelch was also the owner and principal of Kelch Policy Group, where she led research and authored numerous health policy reports, articles and projects across the health care landscape. Her consultation with state agencies included providing leadership, analysis and technical assistance to California policymakers during the state’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, now known as Covered California.

(more)

“I am honored to join the Covered California board during this critical time for health care and coverage,” Kelch said. “I devoted my entire career to expanding and improving health insurance in California. The recent federal cuts require us to be focused, creative and strategic so we can preserve hard won gains as much as possible, especially for those historically left out and left behind.”

Kelch was also the founding executive director of the Central Valley Health Network, a consortium of multi-site community health centers serving 17 California counties. From 2016 to 2020, she served as executive director of Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP), a California-based health policy think tank that focused on expanding health care access and coverage through research and stakeholder engagement.

Kelch graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles and holds a master’s degree in public policy and administration. Now in retirement, she writes poetry and fiction, is a member of the Sacramento branch of the California Writers Club and volunteers with local community organizations.

There is no compensation for the position, but Kelch may receive a per diem and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state’s health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California’s consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.

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