

Health Care Reform - Children's Ballot Initiative Postponed (4.7.08)

After the disappointing failure of ABX1-1, and despite the continued voiced commitment of the Administration, it became apparent that comprehensive health care reform was not likely to happen this year. Instead, groups began placing smaller incremental pieces of reform on the table with the hopes of drawing on the established momentum created by stakeholder groups across the state. One major incremental reform piece, the children's health coverage initiative proposed for the November ballot, was especially hopeful for children's groups and stakeholder groups alike. The proposed initiative gave hope that reform might still be possible if not for all Californians, than at least California's children. The children's health coverage initiative proposed for the November election has officially been postponed and will not be placed on the ballot. Though the children's groups were able to gain the support of healthcare groups and advocates, they were unable to secure the funds to place the measure on the ballot. Instead, they are hoping to bring it back in 2009 or 2010 with the current focus shifting to SB 32 - Steinberg's measure to provide coverage for all California children up to 300% of FPL - by expanding public programs and deleting the specified citizenship and immigration status requirements.

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