



State of the State 2024

*Presented by
Lynne Kinst, HCC Executive Director &
Cher Gonzales, Resolute Company*



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Housekeeping in 30 seconds or less

- **Use chat** to ask questions throughout the webinar
- Please **mute** your phone or computer until Q&A (Use *6 to mute or unmute)
- Neither the **Hemophilia Council of California** nor our **speaker** today are providing legal counsel or medical advice.
- This webinar will be recorded and posted **at a later date**
- Find **additional resources & recordings** at www.hemophiliaCA.org/education/webinars





What is the Hemophilia Council of California?

Our **Beginning**

HCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed in 1989 to meet coordinate the shared advocacy agenda of the four California hemophilia organizations

Our **Focus**

HCC coordinates statewide access, education and advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals living with bleeding disorders and rare or chronic conditions

Our **Advocacy**

HCC advocates to protect access to care, promote progressive treatment options and advance the quality of life for these individuals, families and caregivers



Mission & Vision

Our **Mission**

To improve access to care and treatment options in order to advance the quality of life for people with bleeding disorders through advocacy, education, and outreach in collaboration with our founding member organizations

Our **Vision**

Open access to quality innovative care and choice of treatment for all people with bleeding disorders



CA State Budget & Policy Update

Cher Gonzalez

- Principal with Resolute Company
- Health policy expert and long-time legislative advocate

What is in the newly proposed State Budget?

- Large deficit (Governor's Budget assumes \$37 billion, vs. \$58 billion estimated by LAO)
- Medi-Cal, CCS and GHPP are funded in the Governor's proposed budget, including the expansion of full-scope Medi-Cal
- On-going changes to CA behavioral health system
- Continues multi-year plan to address homelessness
- Additional funding for public safety

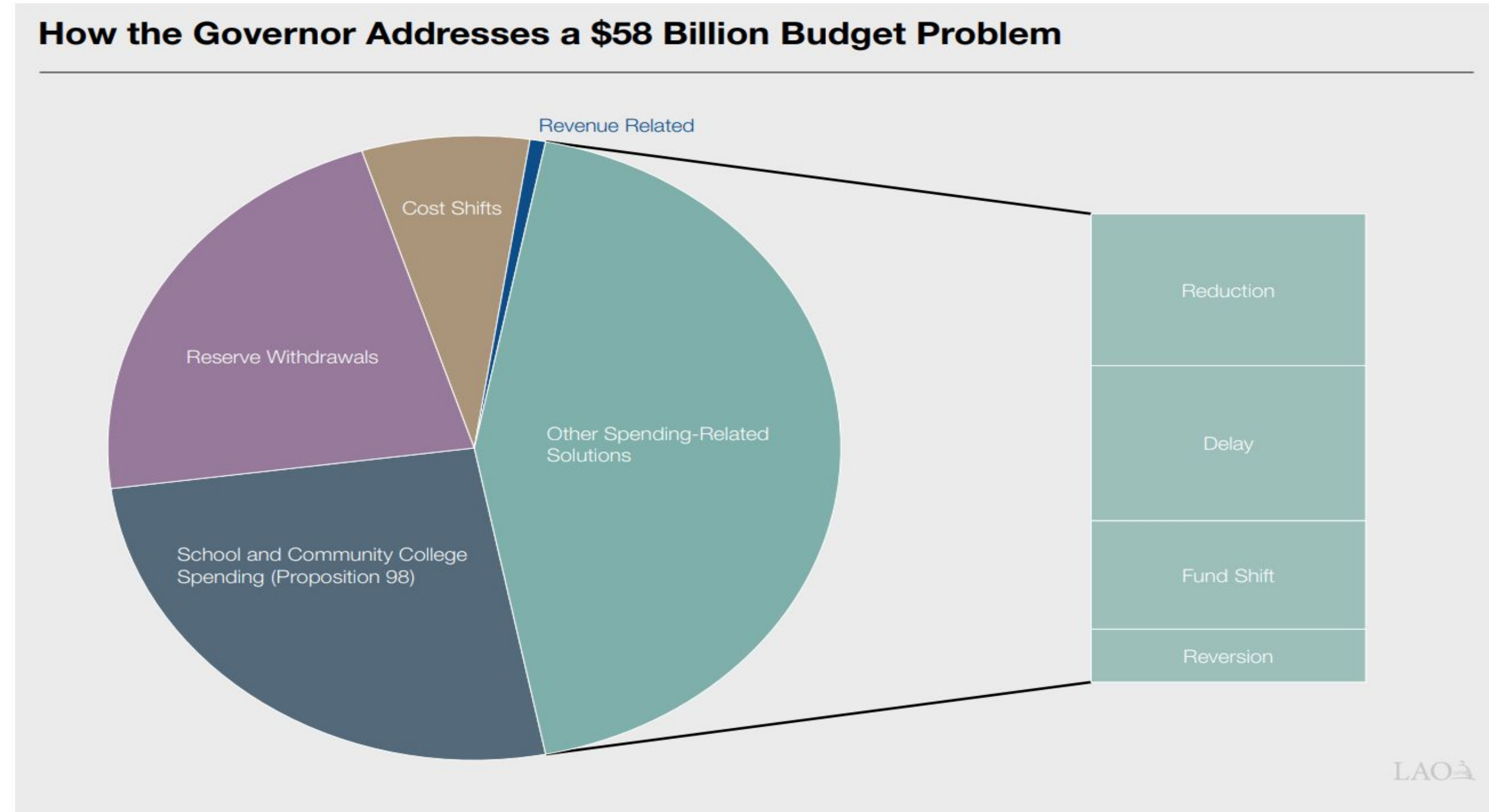
The Current Landscape

Why Does the State Face a Budget Problem? In June 2023, the Legislature solved a \$27 billion shortfall for 2023-24 and anticipated a \$14 billion deficit in 2024-25. Since then, however, tax collections have been far lower than expected.

How Prepared Is the State to Address a Budget Problem? This year, the state has a number of tools to address the budget problem, including tens of billions of dollars in reserves and one-time spending that can be reduced without significant impact to the state's ongoing core service level.

What Is the Budget Outlook for Future Years? The state faces significant structural shortfalls—around \$30 billion each year—under both our and the administration's forecasts for 2025-26 through 2027-28. The state will have fewer tools available to address these shortfalls. As such, the Legislature likely will face more difficult decisions, such as revenue increases and ongoing spending reductions to balance the budget in future years.

How Does the Governor Propose Addressing the Budget Problem?



Source: [The 2024-25 Budget: Overview of the Governor's Budget \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/budget/)

- The proposed reserve withdrawals are generally reasonable.
- The administration lacks a plan for implementing some of the proposed reductions to school and community college spending.
- The other spending-related solutions are warranted, but some pose challenges.

Specific health spending proposals

- **Full Scope Expansion on Medi-Cal:** The Budget includes \$1.4 billion total funds in 2024-25 to maintain the expansion of full-scope Medi-Cal coverage to all adults regardless of immigration status effective January 1, 2024.
- **Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax and Medi-Cal Provider Rate Increases:** In December 2023, the federal government approved California's MCO Tax effective April 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026. Given the projected budget shortfall, the Administration is seeking early action by the Legislature to request the federal government approve an amendment to increase the tax to achieve \$20.9 billion in total funding to the state, an increase of \$1.5 billion compared to the approved MCO Tax. The Budget proposes \$2.8 billion in 2024-25 and approximately \$6.5 billion in 2025-26 for targeted rate increases and investments to the program.
- **Asset Limit Elimination:** The Budget includes \$101.1 million total funds in 2023-24 and \$195.4 million total funds in 2024-25 for the January 1, 2024 elimination of the Medi-Cal asset limit.
- **Defer Spending on Newly Chaptered Legislation:** The Governor's Budget defers the consideration of resource requests associated with recently chaptered legislation to the May Revision, including: AB 425 (Chapter 329, Statutes of 2023) related to pharmacogenomic testing; SB 311 (Chapter 707, Statutes of 2023) related to Medicare Part A buy-in; and SB 496 (Chapter 496, Statutes of 2023) related to biomarker testing.

Other proposals & issues to watch

- Expansion of Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Proposed CCS Ballot Initiative
- Medi-Cal Rx
- Access to New Therapies



Patient Assistance Programs and the Threat of Copay Accumulators

**ALL
COPAYS
COUNT **IN**
CALIFORNIA**

Things to keep in mind

The state budget & bill proposals are not final and are negotiated throughout the legislative session!

Your voices are critical to help shape these proposals into policies that benefit and do not harm our community.

Register now for Legislative Day or Future Leaders to help advocate!

GHPP & CCS - Reminders

- GHPP provides services for those 21 and over. CCS provides services for those up to age 21. Both are funded by the Governor's proposed budget.
- It is critical that patients research and understand all their coverage options – including private insurance, Covered California, Medi-Cal, GHPP and CCS. Note: Covered California enrollment ends January 31!
- We have many resources on our website & YouTube channel, especially regarding GHPP and CCS.
- HCC is available to assist you in researching your options and understanding what is available.

Medi-Cal Updates & Reminders

- Medi-Cal Redeterminations are on-going. Be sure they have your updated contact information. Respond to any requests for information in a timely manner.
- Scam alert – it should never cost anything to apply for or renew your Medi-Cal. Contact your treatment center or HCC if you need assistance.
- Medi-Cal Expansion for eligible adults ages 26-40 regardless of immigration status has taken effect. Those with limited scope Medi-Cal should be automatically updated to full scope Medi-Cal.

CA Rare Disease Access Coalition

New Initiative!

- Partner with other rare disease patient groups to advance access to quality of care

Mental Health Resources

- Mental health and substance abuse help are available through Medi-Cal, GHPP and many private insurers.
- California continues to expand access to these resources, although the number of providers continues to be a challenge.
- HCC can provide you a list of resources and how to access them.

Mental Health Access

- HCC is now part of the BD SUMHAC – the Bleeding Disorders Substance Use Mental Health Access Coalition.
- This is a national effort to ensure patients with bleeding disorders have access to in-patient substance use or in-patient mental health treatment.
- If you or someone you know has had difficulty accessing these services, please contact HCC so we can help.

2023 HCC Accomplishments

- Sponsored ACR 23 (Weber) which declared March 2023 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month
- Co-sponsored AB 874 (Weber) to protect patient assistance programs
- Full funding for Medi-Cal, CCS and GHPP
- Supported AB 564, SB 59 and SB 70
- Solved numerous patient access issues
- Second year of Advocacy & Access Ambassadors Program

What HCC has planned for 2024

- Advocacy & Public Policy Webinar Series
- Advocacy & Access Ambassadors
- NHF Washington Days –
- Future Leaders – **Registration closes January 26th!**
- Legislative Day – **Registration closes February 9th!**
- CA Rare Disease Access Coalition– **February 29th and September 26th**
- Policy News and Action Alerts
- Collaboration with your Local Foundation

HCC 2024 Advocacy Priorities

Protect Benefits

HCC will advocate to protect benefits and access to Medi-Cal, CCS and GHPP for all patients with bleeding disorders.

HCC will also monitor Medi-Cal Rx and CalAIM to ensure we maximize access and benefits for bleeding disorders patients.

All Copays Count

HCC will work with our coalition partners to re-introduce legislation to ensure that all copays are applied to a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket expenses to help patients maintain access to medications and health care.

March BDA Month

As in years past, HCC will sponsor a resolution to declare March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month and raise awareness about bleeding disorders.

Overview of Upcoming Webinars

- February 28 – Telling Your Bleeding Disorders Story
- March 13 – Legislative Briefing
- April 24 – What Does Health Care Access Mean? A Patient Panel
- May 22
- August 28
- September 25
- October 23
- November 13

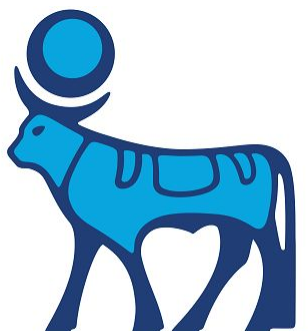
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A recording and slides will be available in a few weeks at

<http://www.hemophiliaca.org/education/webinars/>

NEED HELP?

Contact **Lynne Kinst** at (916) 572-7771 or lkinst@hemophiliaca.org