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**AB 1520 (Levine) Health care coverage: prostate cancer: screening.**  
**FACT SHEET**

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**As Introduced:** February 22, 2021

**ISSUE**

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In 2021, nearly 26,000 individuals in California will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, making it the second-most diagnosed cancer in the state and the most diagnosed in the entire country. Prostate cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in California, and has the highest amount of prostate-related deaths in the country.

In 2021, a man is expected to die from prostate cancer every 15 minutes. Black men will be diagnosed at a rate almost 80% higher than non-Hispanic white men and are twice as likely to die because of lack of access to testing and care.

Prostate cancer is also the most common malignancy in veterans, diagnosed in approximately 11,000 men in the VA system each year. Veterans are unique in that those men exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are at elevated risk for prostate cancer. A disproportionate number of veterans exposed to Agent Orange received a diagnosis of prostate cancer that is connected to their military service. Whether prostate cancers that develop in individuals exposed to Agent Orange are more aggressive than other prostate cancers remains an area of active investigation.

Out of pocket expenses create barrier to screening for prostate cancer. Screening is a critical first step for diagnosis. If detected early, nearly 100% of patients will survive.

**SOLUTION**

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AB 1520 would eliminate out of pocket expenses for prostate cancer screening for individuals 55 years of age and older or individuals defined as high risk that are 40 years of age or older. High risk includes individuals defined as African Americans, veterans, with a family history of prostate cancer, or have a genetic predisposition to prostate cancer.

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

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Addressing prostate cancer health disparities has already been implemented in New York (SB 6882, 2018) and Maryland (SB 661, 2020). Currently Rhode Island (SB 383 and HB 5432) and Texas (SB 1539 and HB 3951) are considering similar policies. H.R. 5200 (Rush D-IL) was also introduced in Congress.

**SUPPORT**

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Zero – End of Prostate Cancer  
California Urological Association  
American Urological Association