

# Opinion: Medical care now Calif.'s biggest industry

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

Four of the 17 measures on the Nov. 8 state ballot relate directly to financing Californians' health care, and collectively they would have tens of billions of dollars in impact.



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But in a sense, that's just peanuts, which takes a little explaining.

Propositions 52, 55, 56 and 61 indirectly symbolize a massive, if often misunderstood, transformation in California's economy over the last few decades.

A UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study reveals that we Californians are directly or indirectly spending a mind-numbing \$367.5 billion a year on our physical well-being, equal to 15 percent of the state's \$2.5 trillion economy.

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