



CAPITOL DIGEST

Suit over health cuts

Organizations protesting Gov. Deukmejian's cuts in the Medi-Cal health-care program for the poor filed suit in Sacramento federal court Thursday seeking to block the reductions in payments to doctors and other providers.

A hearing was scheduled for today on the request for a temporary restraining order filed by the California Medical Association, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations Inc. and other groups and individuals representing medical providers and Medi-Cal patients.

The suit was filed less than a week after the state Court of Appeal in San Francisco withdrew its temporary order blocking the 10 percent cuts in many Medi-Cal reimbursement payments to doctors, hospitals and other providers.

Gladden Elliott, president of the California Medical Association, vowed that the organization "will seek by any means possible to prevent an action that would mean less medical care for the state's needy."

Medical providers have argued that the 10 percent cuts will reduce the number of doctors and other providers who are able to treat Medi-Cal patients.

search on the feasibility of such highways and the use of other modern technology in solving the state's traffic woes. But Eaves' bill is the first piece of legislation requiring testing of the technology.