

AI and Our Healthcare: California Lawmakers Address Biases, Benefits, Opportunities and Safety

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

On May 28, the Assembly Health and Privacy and Consumer Protection Committees held a joint hearing on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).

GenAI refers to digital systems that engineers train to conduct tasks or produce a range of content, including videos, text, music, code, graphics, and more.

The discussion focused on GenAI applications in healthcare -- the opportunities, challenges, policy implications, and how the advancing technology affects patient care.

“Although AI in healthcare is not new, interest in and research in AI and generative AI applications have dramatically accelerated,” Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda) told California Black Media (CBM).



The discussion focused on GenAI applications in healthcare -- the opportunities, challenges, policy implications, and how the advancing technology affects patient care

“A range of applications are being developed, tested, and deployed in medical research, administration, and even clinical tasks. There is excitement about these developments, but it should be tempered by caution,” she added.

The hearing was held as several bills make their way through the Legislature, including bills authored

by Bonta as well as Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Castro Valley).

Bonta, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), is also the chair of the Assembly Health Committee. Bauer-Kahan chairs the Privacy and Consumer

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Air Quality Board Rejects Two Rules Written to Ban Gas Water Heaters and Furnaces

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Two proposed rules to eliminate the usage of gas water heaters and furnaces by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in Southern California were rejected by the Governing Board on June 6.

Energy policy analysts say the board’s decision has broader implications for the state.

With a 7-5 vote, the board decided not to amend Rules 1111 and 1121 at the meeting held in Diamond Bar in L.A. County.

The proposal would have affected 17 million residents in Southern California, requiring businesses, homeowners, and renters to convert to electric units.

“We’ve gone through six months, and we’ve made a decision today,” said SCAQMD board member



With a 7-5 vote, the board decided not to amend Rules 1111 and 1121 at the meeting held in Diamond Bar in L.A. County.

Carlos Rodriguez. “It’s time to move forward with what’s next on our policy agenda.”

The AQMD governing board is a 13-member body responsible for setting air quality policies and regulations within the South Coast Air Basin, which covers areas in four counties: Riverside County, Orange County, San Bernardino County and parts of Los Angeles County.

The board is made up of representatives from various elected offices within the region, along with members who are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and Senate Rules Committee.

Holly J. Mitchell, who serves as a County Supervisor for the Second District of Los Angeles

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As Obesity Crushes Our Communities, California Can’t Afford to Cut Care

Rhonda Smith | Special to California Black Media Partners

Obesity is a structural and systemic health crisis that demands a public health response.

Across California, nearly one-third of adults are living with obesity, according to data from UCLA. But behind this number lies a deeper truth: obesity is a disease, not a choice, and Black and Brown communities are bearing the brunt of its consequences.

The proposed budget cuts to Medicaid/Medi-Cal threaten to make things significantly worse.

Obesity is linked to a host of chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and stroke, all of which Black and Brown communities experience with worse outcomes and higher disease-related deaths. These health conditions drive nearly half the cost of chronic disease care in the U.S., draining both lives and livelihoods. And the burden is not shared evenly.



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In California, 36.8% of Black adults are living with obesity, which is significantly higher than the state average.

Under-resourced communities already face barriers to accessing quality healthcare nutritious food, safe places to be active, and culturally competent healthcare providers.

California has the highest total obesity-related medical costs in the United States, with annual medical care

expenditures of adults with obesity nearly three times greater than for adults with normal weight, the greatest difference of any state.

Recent studies show that the obesity rate in California is projected to increase to 41% by 2030. Cutting access to effective, evidence-based treatments will exacerbate the disparities and costs -- particularly for newer

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“We Are Better Than This”: Black Caucus Denounces L.A. County ICE Raids After Multiple Protests

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) last week condemned ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in California.

The caucus released the statement the same day multiple protests erupted in Los Angeles County, reacting to three ICE raids conducted in that area.

“For months we have watched the unsettling images of federal agents rampaging through our communities. We have stood in horror as masked, heavily armed men ransack neighborhoods under the color of law leaving terror and trauma in their



Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), a member of the CLBC and chair of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, urged protestors to take control of the situation and deescalate rising tensions.

wake,” read a June 6 statement released by the CLBC.

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), a member of the CLBC and chair

of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, urged protestors to take

Continued on page 7

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that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

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State Board of Education Prez Darling-Hammond Calls Newsom’s Billion-Dollar Literacy Plan “Encouraging Milestone”

Antonio Ray Harvey |

California Black Media

State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond says Gov. Gavin Newsom’s newly unveiled Golden State Literacy Plan is an “encouraging milestone.”

According to the Governor’s office, the plan is central to California’s push to improve reading skills statewide, particularly in underserved communities.

Announced June 8 at Clinton Elementary School in Compton, the billion-dollar initiative is designed

to expand evidence-based literacy instruction and deploy more than 1,000 literacy coaches and specialists to the state’s highest-need schools. The plan also funds early reading screenings, professional development for educators, and the continued rollout of Universal Transitional Kindergarten.

“The Golden State Literacy Plan is an encouraging milestone in our ongoing quest to improve literacy education, making sure it’s effective, meaningful, and engaging for all of our students,” said Darling-

Hammond during the event.

She outlined the framework that will support student success: “We know effective literacy instruction requires early language development; diagnosis of student needs and progress; high-quality curriculum and materials; and preparation, professional development, and coaching for teachers so that they understand the reading process thoroughly and become adept at addressing diverse student needs, including those of English learners.”

Newsom’s plan builds



Newsom’s plan builds on existing investments, including \$500 million already allocated for literacy coaches and \$6.8 billion in learning recovery funds to address academic and emotional setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

on existing investments, including \$500 million already allocated for literacy coaches and \$6.8 billion in learning recovery funds to address academic and emotional setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

California has shown measurable progress in reading achievement over the past decade. Between 2011 and 2022, the state saw the largest gains in 8th grade reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) nationwide.

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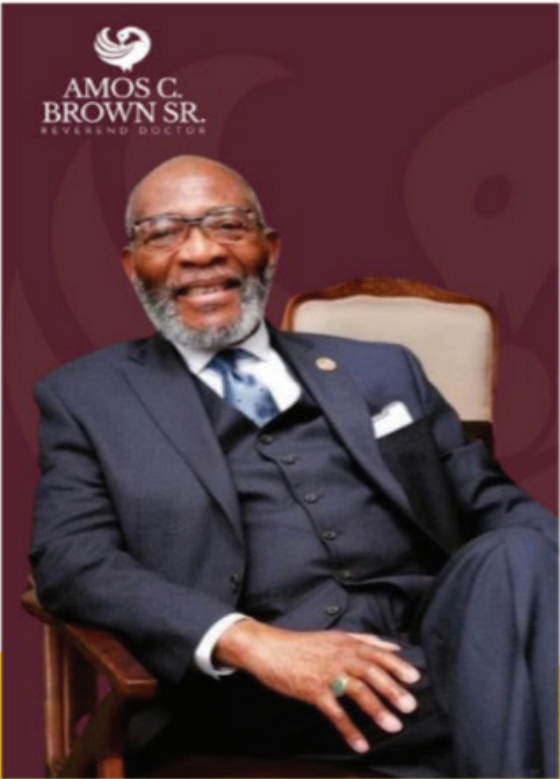


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California Supports Small Businesses With Funding and Training to SCALE

Charlene Muhammad | California Black Media

Small businesses in California – from sole proprietorships to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) – account for about 99% of all businesses in the state, making them the sector most responsible for job creation, more than 7 million.

Considering their importance to the state economy, Gov. Jerry Brown created the Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) in 2012 and paired it with the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development.

In 2021, Dr. Tara Lynn Gray was sworn in as the 5th Director of CalOSBA.

In that role, Dr. Gray serves as a voice and visionary for California’s 4 million-plus small businesses, providing information about state resources, connecting owners with funding, and communicating the priorities of small businesses to decision-makers in Sacramento.

On May 19, Gray spoke with a group of Black news publishers in Sacramento at a roundtable organized by California Black Media (CBM)

as part of a legislative advocacy day sponsored by statewide organizations.

In the invitation-only information session, Gray spoke with the journalists and media outlet leaders, and small business owners, about her work with CalOSBA

and shared insights she has gleaned over her three-decade career as a small-business-owner-turned-advocate.

Which small business owners do you primarily serve?

All of them. I am responsible for state programs that support all small businesses. During my four-year tenure to date, my team and I have administered 14 programs, a total of \$5.3 billion in appropriations, supporting more 500,000 of the state’s 4.2 million small businesses. Guided by the Governor’s vision of building a California economy that works for all, our programs aim to deliver on that promise.

Describe the current state of small businesses in California.

The current state of small business is good. We are California. We are now the fourth-largest economy in the world. We invented the unicorn. Our businesses receive two-thirds of the venture capital in the United States. We file more patents than any other state. We have the lowest first-year failure rate of all of the states in the Union. General conditions

for small business success in California are good and we have to protect this so the horizon remains good. There are pockets in communities and regions across the state that are still struggling with building strong entrepreneurial ecosystems that reflect the greater success that coastal regions and Silicon Valley have experienced. We are fortunate to have a governor and legislature

that value small businesses and have worked together to provide resources for their growth and development.

Are there still systemic barriers affecting underserved entrepreneurs?

Absolutely. In my office, we center our work around what I call three imperatives for small business success.

The first is democratizing access to capital. That’s making sure that there is available capital -- the right size and the right type of capital for every kind of small business. Capital not just for the start-up tech founder, but for the restaurant that wants to expand, for the nail salon that wants to add additional services, for the doctor who wants to add additional clinicians.

The second imperative is to diversify the innovation economy -- making sure that all founders have access to the social and financial networks,

and thought leadership, that really help create synergy and market advantage.

Lastly, we must drive economic mobility through entrepreneurship, which is really about making sure that the zip code you’re born in, if disadvantaged, does not dictate how far you can go economically or how quickly you can build wealth.

Describe some programs CalOSBA has to support for aspiring small business owners or those struggling to stay afloat?

We tell small business

owners not to go at it alone. There is help. The Governor made the funding for the Small Business Technical Assistance Program permanent at \$26 million a year. We have \$23 million dedicated to the Technical Assistance Program for the provision of one-on-one counseling sessions, training classes, and outreach. We rebranded the program from TAP to SCALE, which stands for Success, Capital, Access and Leadership for Entrepreneurs. The name is in line with the goals of the program, which is to help scale their businesses, by adding jobs, and generating opportunity in their local economies

On a personal note, what motivates you to keep advocating for small businesses?

I’m driven to make a difference for all entrepreneurs and small business owners. They put everything they have on the line, in pursuit of the California dream, and the American dream.

I was raised by two blessed people. They were educators. They motivate me. My mom was a Spanish and French teacher at the beginning of her career. before going back to law school, and becoming an advocate for people who were less fortunate. She was active politically, managing local campaigns and being a delegate to state and national democratic conventions.

And my dad is no slouch with a pair of master’s degrees. He retired as a high school principal after 31 years of



We must recognize that all small businesses are putting everything on the line, every single day to support their families and realize their dreams - period.

service in the same school district. My mom retired as an assistant superintendent of a school district after years of labor negotiations work. I was raised with the belief that I could be anything and accomplish anything I set my mind to do. They taught us to be responsible, to participate in the political process, to exercise our right to vote, and to lift our voices in local government. Those are things that I learned in my childhood.

I combine that with my very close relationship to my maternal grandmother, who was an entrepreneur. I watched her influence in the community. I watched her support people. I watched her leadership in her circle lending to those in need.

I saw firsthand the power of entrepreneurship. It is naturally who I am, and I’m blessed to have been appointed by a Governor who saw it fit to utilize these gifts.

What’s one misconception that people often have about small business success or failure?

That’s a great question. I have two primary thoughts about that.

The first is that failure is not the end. Failure is often the pathway to success. I taught my students in past entrepreneurship classes to embrace failure. When you learn from your failures, you take those lessons on to the next thing. So, “Fail fast! Fail often! Fail forward!”

Second, entrepreneurs are often treated with a little bit more respect than small business owners. We think about small business owners as our restaurateur, as our nail salon owner, as our hairdresser, as our dry cleaner. We think about entrepreneurs as hardware and software tech founders who attract venture capital and have a different level of access to resources than our local food vendor.

U.S. SENATE VOTES TO END TAXES ON SERVICE WORKERS’ TIPS

Bo Tefu | California Black

Media

In a unanimous vote on May 20, the U.S. Senate voted to eliminate

federal taxes on tips

for service workers.

California State Sen.

Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh

(R-Redlands) praised the U.S.

Senate for passing the bill,

which was introduced by U.S.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

“I applaud the U.S. Senate

for putting service workers

first and providing much-

needed tax relief. Now

it’s California’s turn,”

said Ochoa Bogh, who has

authored similar legislation

in California, Senate Bill

(SB) 17. The U.S. Senate bill,

which codifies into federal law

a campaign promise made by

President Trump, establishes a

tax deduction of up to \$25,000

for tips for employees who

earn less than \$160,000. The

deduction is limited to cash

tips workers earn and report

to employers for withholding

on their paychecks.

“Tipped workers are

taxed on inconsistent and

unpredictable income causing

instability in their families

already struggling to make

ends meet,” said Ochoa Bogh.

However, on May 23, the

Senate Appropriations

Committee voted to send

Ochoa Bogh’s no-state-

tax-on-service-workers bill

– along with hundreds of

others – to the “suspense

file,” where bills are sent

for further consideration of

costs to the state.

Black and Latino Californians Behind in Retirement Savings, Homeownership Rates

Bo Tefu | California Black Media

A new report reveals that Black Californians

are falling behind in

key measures of wealth,

including retirement

savings and homeownership,

raising concerns about

long-term economic

security and opportunity.

The report, based on U.S.

Census data, shows that the

typical California household

has a net worth of \$288,000,

which is significantly higher

than the national median of

\$180,000. However, wealth

in the state is unequally

distributed across racial and

ethnic lines. Wealth includes

everything a household owns,

like a home or retirement

account, minus debts such as

credit cards or student loans.

“Latino and Black/Other

households disproportionately

have low wealth, as do

those with lower levels of

educational attainment,”

the report stated.

Despite homeownership

being a common path to

building wealth in America,

Black households with

similar income, age, and

education levels to their White

counterparts still lag behind.

The report also shows

that the most common

assets among California

households are checking and

savings accounts, retirement

accounts, home equity, and

vehicle equity. Even though

many Black households do

own these assets, they do not

have enough set aside for

emergencies, putting them

at risk as they age.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.
Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Are Any of Us Really Ready for Fire Season?

The smoke has already arrived. This past week, thick plumes from wildfires in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have drifted into the US, triggering air quality alerts across the Midwest. Cities like Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago are experiencing hazy skies and dangerous air conditions, with the Air Quality Index reaching levels unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Fire has always helped shape our forests, especially in the West. But those forests have evolved around natural frequencies and intensities of fires. What we are seeing now is new. This early-season smoke is a stark reminder that fire season is no longer confined to the West or wild

areas, and more intense and longer-lasting fire seasons are the new normal.

Megan Paxman says she lives "in a state of constant anxiety every wildfire season." A mother to a son with asthma in Alberta, Canada, she wrote on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's website about her experience on Mother's Day 2023.

“My four-year-old son has been sleepy and unwilling to eat all morning. I notice that the skin between his ribs and at the base of his throat is pulling in between every inhale.”

When Paxman called the local general health information service, a nurse told her, “get him to the hospital now.”

“The second I get a whiff of that telltale smell, I go into super-watchful mode,”

Paxman says. “I'm obsessively checking the local air quality levels and his breathing while watching for haze on the horizon or an orange tint to the light.”

That haze and orange tint are becoming more familiar for Americans from California to the Great Lakes to the East Coast.

As of May 30, the US had recorded over 27,700 wildfires this year – 33% more than the 10-year average for this time of year. The devastating fires in Southern California this past January reminded us that the areas threatened directly by wildfires are increasing, with major cities no longer safe. The conditions that gave rise to those fires – including the Palisades and Eaton fire which destroyed more than 18,000 structures and claimed at least

30 lives – were exacerbated by climate change. That’s how it is around the world as well, where the global area considered “fire-prone” is projected to grow by 29% by the end of the century.

Aside from fires’ destructive impacts, the health impacts of wildfire smoke are profound. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from these fires can penetrate deep into the lungs, leading to respiratory issues, heart problems, and other serious health concerns. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable. In some areas affected by the recent Canadian wildfires, residents have been advised to stay indoors and limit outdoor activities.

Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, high winds, and certain extreme weather events create the perfect conditions for wildfires to ignite and spread rapidly. But despite the growing risks, recent decisions by the Trump administration have undermined our ability to respond effectively.

Staff and budget cuts to key agencies responsible for forest management and wildfire prevention threaten to leave us even more vulnerable and less prepared. Additionally, harmful legislation like the Fix Our Forests Act threatens to weaken environmental protections and prioritize logging over sustainable forest management that could actually help address forest fires.

We need a comprehensive approach to address this crisis. This includes investing in



Ben Jealous

forest restoration, supporting fire-resistant – and resilient – infrastructure, and policies that drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Public education campaigns can also play a crucial role in promoting fire safety and preparedness.

There is no safe level of exposure to wildfire smoke. It is 10 times more toxic to our health than standard air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels, and there's no safe level of exposure. According to a multinational studies reported in the science journal Nature, wildfire-specific PM2.5 increased the risk of hospitalization for a range of respiratory illnesses from asthma to the flu. That’s especially true for people under age 19 or older than 60. Compared to PM2.5 from other sources, wildfire-specific PM2.5 led to a greater risk of hospitalization for all respiratory diseases.

Do a quick search online about the impact of wildfire smoke and you’ll see countless articles from public health experts, pediatricians, and other doctors about ways to

avoid PM2.5 exposure or the signs that indicate you should see medical care. But isn’t it a better solution to address the actual cause of more, bigger, stronger wildfires, and the deadly pollution they bring? To make it so the air is not so toxic that kids with asthma essentially have to shelter in place deep in their homes during the very months they should be playing outside?

Communities across the country must come together to demand action. We must hold our leaders accountable and push for policies that prioritize public health and environmental sustainability. The challenges are immense, but with collective effort and determination, we can build a more resilient future.

In the meantime, preparedness is key.

Stay informed about local air quality conditions and have an evacuation plan in place. But let’s not forget to support initiatives aimed at eliminating fossil fuels and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Our health, our homes, and our planet depend on it.

WE NEED THE JOY OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

Dyana Williams, Kenny Gamble and Ed Wright founded Black Music Month in June 1979. Also known as African American music Appreciation Month, it was first officially celebrated by President Jimmy Carter with a White House reception.

Carter created a platform to recognize and celebrate music, and many Blak music executives held celebrations over the years to recognize the moth. President Bill Clinton issued a presidential proclamation recognizing Black Music Month. His proclamation was “recognizing the importance of African American music to global culture and calling on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate African American Music”. The, in 2009, President Barack Obama renamed it African American

Music Appreciation Month. The Obama proclamation, elegantly written, talked about spirituals lifting voices into the heavens during enslavement, and talked about the various genres of Black music including blues, jazz soul, rock and roll, gospel, and symphony. In the 2016 proclamation, one of Obama’s last, the nation’s first Black president said, “African American music helps us imagine a better world and offers hope that we will get there together.”

Now in this Black Music Month 2025, we have lost a musical icon, one whose music was a soundtrack to my teen life. Sly Stone. the front man for the band Sly and the Family Stone, made is transition this month, and all I could do was reflect on the music, the lyrics, and the meaning of the unifying messages. Who could sit when the DJ was playing Dance

to the Music, or I Want to Take You Higher, or Thank You Falettinme Be Mice Elf Again. Who could not think about unity and acceptance when they heard Everyday People? Who could not fail to feel affirmed when they heard Everybody is A Star, with the powerful line. – “I love you for who you are, not for who you feel a need to be>’

Sly Stone mixed genres – funi, soul, rock, gospel, and psychodelia. His was ahead of the curve with his multiracial band, something not often seen in the late sixties and early seventies. Some of his music became anthems, while others remain summertime/ family p0icnic staples – like Family Affair, Hot Fun in the Summertime, or Dance to the Music. What a joy and inspiration Sly Ston was. Indeed, I can’t think about Sly Stone’s music without humming or getting out of my desk chair to shake my stuff,

if only for a minute.

It is unlikely that the current President will issue a proclamation to celebrate African American Music Appreciation Month. It would likely violate his anti-DEI edicts. We don’t need Presidential approval, or anyone else’s for that matter, to appr4ciate the richness of Black music. The election of this President ought to inspire us to excavate our history, to celebrate the genius of James Weldon and his brother J. Rosamond Johnson. It ought to remind us of those early musicians who took spoons to pots to create a beat, or those gospel singers who invoked the sweet chariot coming forth to carry me home. It ought to lift subterfuge, how we used hidden meaning in songs to communicate.


Our nation is under siege. The man who lives in the House that Enslaved People



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Built has deployed 4000 National Guard members and 700 Marines to Los Angeles against the wishes of Governor Gavin Newsome and Mayor Karen Bass. His clueless Defenses Secretary can’t say what military operations will be affected by these deployments. We are in for a fight for our democracy, and the World Bank has said that the world economy will be int worse shape it has been since the 1960s. And yet I

write about music because we need th4e joy. Enslaved people sang. Incarcerated people sang. Civil rights workers and protestors sang. Because, as President Obama said, “music helps us a better world, and offer us hope that we can get there together. Let’s celebrate Black Music and Sly Stone this month. Let us savor our music and revel in our rich history.



THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Learn From Bad Examples

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:13
Related Scriptures: Exodus 32:1-10; Numbers 16:1-50; 21:4-9; 25:1-15; Psalm 78:9-39
Place: Ephesus
Time: 55 A.M.
Golden Text: Now all these things happen unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).
.The Apostle Paul’s commitment to his course of ministry did not come easily. It required personal discipline (strict training) like that of an athlete who strove for supremacy in his field. To that end Paul willingly gave up certain privileges which might otherwise be his to

enjoy so that he could win the prize. The prize for Paul was not the temporary crown bestowed by men (in the biennial games near Corinth the “crown” was a pine wreath) but the eternal crown bestowed by Christ in 2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul’s crown would be the consummation of the reward (1 Corinthians 9:18) he partially enjoyed, the opportunity to glory before Christ in those he had been able to win (see 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 2:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:19). Every move Paul made in the course of his race was calculated to further his pursuit of the prize (see Philippians 3:13–14). Every blow struck was meant to land squarely on his opponent and send him reeling from the contest in Ephesians

6:12; James 4:7). To achieve this, Paul would not let his body master him, sometimes he denied even its demand for rightful privileges and pleasures for Paul’s life could be cut short by the disciplinary disapproval of God. God had disciplined in the past and was disciplining in the present and would discipline in the immediate future. Paul was concerned that some might not be able to say with him one day, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race” (2 Timothy 4:7). So that the Corinthians might not think God’s discipline would be an unlikely eventuality for a people so blessed as they (1:5), Paul cited the illustration of another group of people who were greatly blessed by God but yet experienced His severe discipline. Israel of old was reckless and unrestrained after her physical and spiritual freedom from tyranny in Egypt. As a result, God meted out severe discipline by cutting short the lives of many Israelites. They were all in the “race” (9:24), but almost all were disqualified (9:27) in spite of their advantages. Five advantages were enjoyed by Israel. First, all the liberated Israelites enjoyed the supernatural guidance (Exodus 13:21) and protection (Exodus 14:19–20) of the pillar of cloud in their Exodus from Egypt. The Corinthians had similarly experienced God’s guidance (Luke 1:79) and protection (see 1 Peter 1:5). Second, all Israelites passed through the sea and experienced a miraculous deliverance from those who sought to take their lives (Exodus 14:21–28). So too had the Corinthians experienced a miraculous deliverance—salvation

(Hebrews 2:14–15; Galatians 1:4). In 1 Corinthians 10:2... Third, the Israelites were all baptized into Moses, that is, united with their spiritual head, God’s servant, who became the object of their trust (Exodus 14:31; John 5:45). The Corinthians had been baptized into the body of Christ (in 1 Corinthians 12:13) of which He is the Head (Ephesians 1:22) and in whom they trusted. In 1 Corinthians 10:3. As a fourth privilege, the Israelites all enjoyed spiritual food, the supernatural bread from heaven (Exodus 16:4, 15). The Corinthians too had eaten bread from heaven (John 6:31–34). In 1 Corinthians 10:4. As a fifth advantage, Paul listed the spiritual drink enjoyed by Israel in the desert (Exodus 17:6). According to Paul, Christ was the source of this supernatural water. Since the incident of the rock which produced water marked the beginning of Israel’s wilderness wanderings (Exodus 17:1–7) and happened again near the ending of their wanderings (Numbers 20:1–13), Paul concluded that Christ accompanied them. Christ too was the source of supernatural water for the Corinthians (John 4:10–14). It is possible that these five blessings were intended by Paul to reflect the two ordinances of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1–2) and the Lord’s Supper (vv. 3–4) which the Corinthians may have thought communicated a magical protection like similar rites in some of the mystery religions. The Corinthians did seem to have a distorted view and practice of both of these ordinances which required correction. In 1 Corinthians 10:5. The presence of supernatural privi-

leges in the lives of Old Testament Israelites did not produce automatic success. On the contrary, in spite of their special advantages, most of them (in fact, all but two members of one generation, Joshua and Caleb) experienced God’s discipline, were disqualified, and died in the desert (In light of this, Paul’s avowed need for personal self-discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27) was genuine since even Moses was disqualified for the prize (Numbers 20:12). In 1 Corinthians 10:6. Since this was so, the Corinthians’ complacency in matters of self-discipline and their corresponding penchant for self-indulgence required immediate remedial action. Christian freedom was not meant to lead to self-indulgence but to selfless service, as the behavior of past Israelites illustrated. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary) Paralleling the fivefold blessings enjoyed by Israel in their newfound freedom from Egypt, Paul proceeded to recount a fivefold failure experienced by Israel during this time. He began with the Israelites’ craving for the pleasures of Egypt, summarized in their plaintive cry, “Give us meat to eat!” (in Numbers 11:4–34, esp. v. 13) God gave them what they wanted but while the meat was still between their teeth, He struck them with a plague. The Israelites named the cemetery for those who were killed “Kibroth Hattaavah” (“graves of craving”; Numbers 11:34). Many in Israel failed by participating in idolatry (Exodus 32:1–6) and paid for it with their lives (Exodus 32:28, 35). Apparently, some Corinthians were interested in more than meat

in the pagan temples. (1 Corinthians 8:10; 10:14). For those who thought they as Christians could take part in idolatry with impunity, Paul intended, with illustrations like this, to knock out the false props which supported their behavior (v. 12) before God intervened and took their lives. 10:8. A third failure among the privileged Israelites was in the area of sexual immorality. 10:9. The Israelites’ fourth failure was the presuming of some to question the plan and purpose of God on their trek to Canaan. As a result, they were killed by snakes (Numbers 21:4–6). Did the Corinthians think that they knew better than God the path that would bring them to heaven? Israel’s fifth failure, which God disciplined with death, occurred when they spoke rebelliously against God’s appointed leaders, Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:41–49). Was Paul facing a similar situation as an outgrowth of the Corinthians’ party spirit? It is possible that each of these failures found expression in the Corinthian issue of eating food sacrificed to idols. 10:11. God’s dealings with Israel were more than a matter of historical curiosity for Paul. They were examples and warnings for the Corinthians that the God with whom they had to deal, who was bringing His interaction with people to a close in this fulfillment of the ages, was the same God who disciplined the Israelites with death and would do so again. Be Blessed Saints

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A.I
Continued from page 1

Protection Committee.

According to Bauer-Kahan, the hearing was organized to discuss a unique set of problems connected to the development and deployment of AI, which she says is increasing existing inequalities and creating new forms of discrimination.

“Our panelists’ powerful testimony showed us that AI trained on incomplete or biased data, that isn’t adequately reviewed and monitored, can perpetuate existing health disparities,” Bauer-Kahan said. “When the datasets that power these tools fail to reflect the diversity of California’s communities, their failure isn’t just technical – it’s moral.”

For nearly three hours at the Capitol Swing Space Annex, members of both committees hosted three panels, featuring physicians, researchers, and data analysts.

The participants addressed

concerns about the regulation of AI, shared ideas about minimizing harm and explored ways the state can continue to guide the development of health care GenAI technologies.

Three topic areas framed the panel discussions: “How is GenAI Being Used in Health Care Now and What’s on the Horizon,”

the Challenges and Policy Implications for California,” and “Stakeholder Perspectives.”

Among the challenges the panelists discussed are the inherent racial, ethnic, and gender biases in GenAI models; how to ensure safety and effectiveness; the problems associated with cost and affordability; and barriers to implementing accountable governance.

Dr. Ziad Obermeyer, a physician and researcher at UC Berkeley School of Public Health, said there needs to be more accountability in AI.

Obermeyer shared that he and other researchers a few

years ago identified racial bias “in a widely used family of algorithms used across the country in health systems,” he said. The tools were supposed to identify patients who were high risk and help get them medical assistance.

“Instead of predicting who is sick, those algorithms predicted who was going to generate high healthcare costs,” Obermeyer said. “It turns out that patients who are Black or poor, rural, or less educated often don’t get care when they need it, so they cost less. Not because they are healthier but because they are underserved.”

Several pieces of legislation focused on AI and healthcare have already been signed into law in California.

Others are making their way through the State Legislature. They include:

Senate Bill (SB) 503 – Health Care Services: Artificial Intelligence – authored by CLBC chair Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, proposes requiring developers of AI models or

systems used in healthcare settings to test for biased impacts in output to ensure equitable treatment across diverse patient populations.

SB 503 was expedited on the Senate floor and taken up for a vote on May 29. The measure passed with a 38-0 floor vote, that included nine Republicans voting in favor of the bill.

Assembly Bill (AB) 3030 - Authored by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon (D-Whittier), this legislation, signed by the Gov. Newsom last year, took effect on Jan. 1. It requires health facilities, clinics, doctors’ offices, and group practices to disclose when they have used GenAI to communicate clinical information about health status to patients.

AB 489 -- Bonta introduced this bill during the current legislative session, AB 489, that will protect Californians from AI systems that misrepresent themselves as nurses and health professionals. the Assembly approved the bill

with a 79-0 vote on June 2. It has now moved to the Senate for consideration.

AB 489 will provide regulators the authority to enforce “title protections,” Bonta said, against those who develop or deploy AI systems that claim to be licensed or certified health professionals.

“As state lawmakers, I believe we have a responsibility to pay attention to all of these developments, ask these questions, and

help guide the technology in ways that maximize benefit to Californians and minimize harm, that is ethical, safe, effective, free from bias, and helpful versus harmful to the work of our clinicians. This is what Californians expect of us, and it's what they deserve,” Bonta said.

AB 1064 – According to Bauer-Kahan, who authored AB 1064 or the Leading Ethical AI Development for Kids (LEAD) Act – the legislation takes on one of the most urgent challenges in today’s health-tech landscape: the use

of AI on and around children.

The LEAD Act would be the first oversight body of its kind, according to Bauer-Kahan’s office. The bill is designed to require safety assessments, prohibit the most dangerous technologies, and provide protection for children’s privacy through transparency and parental consent. The measure passed with a 59-12 vote in the Assembly on June 2.

AB 1064 will control AI systems used by or targeted at children because “There is no innovation more important than the health and safety of our children,” Bauer-Kahan said during one of the committee hearings.

“This joint informational hearing reaffirmed my belief that AI holds enormous promise to empower clinicians and improve healthcare,” Baur-Kahan stated. “Policymakers and healthcare institutions must develop guardrails to ensure these tools are ethical, inclusive, and accountable.”

Air Quality
Continued from page 1

County, is a SCAQMD board member. She supported the amendments, but respected the board’s final decision, stating it was a “compromise.”

“In my policymaking experience, if you can come up with amended language that everyone finds some fault with, you’ve probably threaded the needle as best as you can,” Mitchell said before the vote. “What I am not okay with is serving on AQMD is making no decision. Why be

here? We have a responsibility to do all that we can to get us on a path to cleaner air.”

The rules proposed by AQMD, Rule 1111 and Rule 1121, aim to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from natural gas-fired furnaces and water heaters.

Rule 1111 and Rule 1121 were designed to control air pollution, particularly emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx).

Two days before the Governing Board’s vote, gubernatorial candidate

Antonio Villaraigosa asked SCAQMD to reject the two rules.

Villaraigosa expressed his concerns during a Zoom call with the Cost of Living Council, a Southern California organization that also opposes the rules. Villaraigosa said the regulations are difficult to understand.

“Let me be clear, I’ve been a big supporter of AQMD over the decades. I have been a believer and a fighter on the issue of climate change my entire life,” Villaraigosa

said. “But there is no question that what is going on now just doesn't make sense. We are engaging in regulations that are put on the backs of working families, small businesses, and the middle class, and we don’t have the grid for all this.”

Rules 1111 and 1121 would also establish manufacturer requirements for the sale of space and water heating units that meet low-NOx and zero-NOx emission standards that change over time, according to SCAQMD.

The requirements also include a mitigation fee for NOx-emitting units, with an option to pay a higher mitigation fee if manufacturers sell more low-NOx water heating and space units.

Proponents of the proposed rules say the fees are designed to incentivize actions that reduce emissions.

Michael Bustamante, Executive Director and Board Chair of the Latino Consumer Federation, refers to Rules 1111 and 1121 as expensive “misguided rules” that would

put more financial pressure on homeowners and renters.

Bustamante is a member of the Cost of Living Council, which consists of 75 social justice, affordable housing, landlord, tenant, and senior living advocates.

“We formed not only to help galvanize community leaders but also to make clear from a community standpoint that these rules will cause significant harm to renters and homeowners alike,” Bustamante said.

Obesity
Continued from page 1

classes of medications, such as GLP-1 drugs.

These medications are proving to be effective not just at managing obesity, but at reducing downstream health conditions and costs. A recent workforce analysis from Aon found that individuals using GLP-1s saw a measurable reduction in healthcare spending, which could also result in potential gains

in productivity and fewer workdays lost to illness.

However, this isn’t just about cost containment, it’s about transforming our healthcare system into one that provides quality, equity-centered care for everyone.

The state’s proposed budget will cut GLP-1 coverage under Medi-Cal, effectively denying access to these treatments for low-income and vulnerable Californians. At a time when

we should be expanding healthcare access, the pending budget cuts will harm many

Californians and their ability to live long, healthy lives, and it sends the wrong message about who we are and what we value.

While Black Californians represent about 7% of the total Medi-Cal enrollees, 1,013,251of them -- about 50% of the state’s total Black population -- are enrolled in

Medi-Cal. The budget cuts risk reinforcing the very inequities California has pledged to dismantle. And while it may promise short-term savings, the long-term costs -- medical, economic, and human lives -- will far overshadow them.

California has long positioned itself as a leader in public health and health equity and we cannot retreat from being that beacon now. Instead of cutting access to healthcare

services and treatments like obesity medications, we should be investing in scalable, community-driven solutions that address the root causes of health disparities.

State lawmakers must protect Medi-Cal coverage and preempt the risk of escalating costs and poorer health outcomes and focus on disease prevention and progression. Effective obesity treatments can be a solution.

Equity, prevention, and a long-term vision should guide our budget choices, not short-term savings that come at the cost of our most vulnerable communities.

At such a critical moment for Americans’ healthcare at both the federal and state levels, California elected officials need to do the right thing and support coverage for anti-obesity medication, and protect Medi-Cal.

Ice Raids
Continued from page 1

control of the situation and deescalate rising tensions.

“Don’t take the bait. Remain peaceful. Peace is our power,” she posted on Facebook.

McKinnor also blasted the feds for detaining David Huerta, a popular labor leader and president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), who was documenting the raids.

“The actions by this federal government are un-American,” wrote McKinnor in a statement. “We demand is

immediate release and an end to the terror being inflicted on communities across L.A. County by this administration.”

According to Yasmeen Pitts, a Homeland Security Investigations division spokesperson, 44 people have been detained in arrests related to the protests.

Pitts said ICE agents targeted three locations in central Los Angeles they accuse of harboring undocumented immigrants.

The Black Caucus statement called the violent arrest of

community leaders leading protests against the raids “a tool in the authoritarian playbook.”

“No person or family, regardless of origin, deserves to be the target of the terror being inflicted across the country in this moment,” the statement continued.

On June 7, Bill Essayli, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, posted on X, “federal agents arrested over a dozen agitators today who impeded agents in their ability to conduct law enforcement operations.”

“We will continue

to arrest anyone who interferes with federal law enforcement,” he added.

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass thanked local law enforcement for keeping the peace in the city.

This is a difficult time for our city. As we recover from an unprecedented natural disaster, many in our community are feeling fear following recent federal immigration enforcement actions across Los Angeles County. Reports of unrest outside the city, including in Paramount, are deeply concerning,” posted Bass on X.

“We’ve been in direct contact with officials in Washington, D.C. and are working closely with law enforcement to find the best path forward.

Everyone has the right to peacefully protest, but let me be clear: violence and destruction are unacceptable, and those responsible will be held accountable,” she added.

On June 8, the Trump administration deployed 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles to quell anti-ICE protests.

Newsom called the decision “deranged.”

“As the federal government conducts chaotic immigration sweeps across the country, the state is deploying additional CHP to maintain safety on Los Angeles highways to keep the peace,” wrote Newsom in a statement posted on X. “It's not their job to assist in federal immigration enforcement. The federal government is sowing chaos so they can have an excuse to escalate. That is not the way any civilized country behaves.”



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