February 2020 Assembly Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 1

Kalra Capitol Report



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Kalra Teams Up with Californians for Justice to Elevate Youth Voices

On October 25th, Assemblymember Ash Kalra hosted the first ever Assembly District 27 State of the Youth Summit alongside Californians for Justice. The summit was created to center youth voices and experiences, and to give students the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives. The room was filled with over a hundred students, teachers and school board members – all ready to discuss the change they wish to see in the world.



The event began with two phenomenal student keynote speakers that discussed the heavy issues affecting today's youth. From gun violence to displacement, the students talked about the inequalities they had witnessed in their own schools and the experiences that shaped them to become activists. Their energy and unwavering commitment to justice filled the room with an incredible sense of hope. Shortly after, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, joined the crowd and opened up about his own experience in public schools. Despite the struggles the Superintendent faced, he explained the impact public education had on his success and the critical need for California to provide all students with a quality education.



After the speakers' portion, the Assemblymember awarded three student led organizations for their tireless work to empower their peers. SIREN Youth was recognized for their work in supporting immigrant families, while Jovenes Activos with Somos Mayfair was recognized for their advocacy against displacement. The Gender and Sexuality Network was also recognized for their commitment to empowering LGBTQ+ youth. After the awards presentation, the crowd split into four dif-

ferent groups to discuss housing, immigration, intersectional identities and education. At the end of the event the youth reported back to the Assemblymember on the issues they heard and gave the Assemblymember an opportunity to respond to their concerns.

Kalra stated, "there is no doubt that we are doing our youth a disservice by not continuously engaging them in conversations that directly impact them. Hearing from you today reminds me of the critical work ahead and the importance of centering youth voices. Your courage for speaking truth to power gives me hope, and furthers my commitment to fighting for a more just and equitable educational system."

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER ASH KALRA

We are now back in session, and a lot has happened in the past couple of months. Governor Newsom passed his proposed budget in January, and Legislators introducing thousands of bills in February. It is exciting to be back in Sacramento representing my constituents and working diligently to make a difference in the community. In addition to reintroducing some of my previous bills that did not make it to the Governor's desk, I am proud to present new legislative proposals that will hopefully become law and make a difference for our communities of color, working families, older adults, and our environment as a whole.

Some of the bills I am reintroducing include:

AB 1947 – Employment violation complaints: requirements: time: would increase the statute of limitations for filing a worker retaliation claim from six months to one year in the administrative process and add the ability to seek attorney's fees for prevailing employees in the legal process.

AB 2002 – CA Deforestation-Free Procurement Act: would require state procurement contracts comprised of forest-risk commodities, entered or renewed on or after January 1, 2023, to certify that their operations and their supply chains are not contributing to tropical deforestation and have in place a No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policy.

Some of my new bills I just introduced for 2020 include:

AB 2118 – Health care service plans and health insurers: reporting requirements: would require health insurers to submit aggregated reporting for plans offered in the individual and small group health insurance markets.

AB 2177 – Horse racing: equine medication, welfare, and safety: would enact comprehensive reforms and improvements in horse racing by following best practices and recommendations by the California Horse Racing Board to ensure minimal equine (horse) injury and eliminate contributing factors that can result in preventable equine death.

AB 2191 – Pupil attendance: precinct board service: would allow schools to claim average daily attendance (ADA) funds for students who enroll in independent study and miss up to five days of school in order to serve as a poll worker.

AB 2245 – Long-term health facilities: would update long-term care facility citation penalties and standards for negligent care to safeguard nursing home and long-term care facility residents.

AB 2409 – Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program: would seek to improve provider participation and waitlist transparency in the Assisted Living Waiver program, and also require the Department of Health Care Services to engage in a stakeholder process that will guide ongoing work in meeting the needs of eligible older adults and people with disabilities at accessing lower cost community services as an alternative to residing in a nursing facility.

AB 2902 – Preserving Mural Art: would enhance the California Art Preservation Act (CAPA) to protect the artist rights and extend the same privileges to local organizations to further protect public art in communities.

AB 3030 – 30% State Conservation Goal by 2030: "30 by 30" sets a goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and 30 percent of the oceans within California by 2030.

In addition, on February 19th, Governor Newsom presented the State of the State Address on the Assembly Floor. The Governor's speech touched on various issues that are prevalent in California, including cost of healthcare, access to higher education, wildfire prevention, but most importantly, homelessness and housing. This was the main topic of the day as Governor Newsom laid out his multipronged approach to ending homelessness that includes providing mental health services, new models for homeless housing such as hotel/motel conversions, and a new California Access to Housing Fund. In the past two years California has been allocating \$1.5 billion to local governments to address homelessness, yet the crisis continues to grow exponentially. Funding is only one part of the puzzle, and now more than ever, we need local partners and government agencies to step up and be a part of the solution. Please stay tuned for more to come, and as always, do not hesitate to contact my District Office for any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ash Kah

Happy Lunar New Year and Year of the Mouse!



Happy Year of the Mouse! Many Asian Americans in our community came together with families and friends to ring in the Year of the Mouse in late January. The Year of the Mouse is especially significant this year because the mouse is the first animal in the lunar calendar. Known as "Tet" in Vietnamese, the San Jose Vietnamese community celebrated the Year of the Mouse by throwing several Tet Festivals in San Jose. These celebrations included ones hosted by Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese and Cindy Chavez, who also used the opportunity to give attendees an update on the newly opened Vietnamese American Service Center, IRCC and Dan Sinh Media at the County building, USTAR Productions at Eastridge Mall, Vietnamese Tet Festival at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, and Vietnamese Tet Festival Canh Ty at the Vietnamese American Community Center. Happy New Year, everyone!

Building Community Through **Fun**

Movies and Meals Free Film Festival for Seniors

February to May 2020

Join us at one of our 13 community centers in San José for a film and nutritious meals.

Enjoy personal stories, health, global issues, historical figure films? Visit the center near you:

Almaden | Alma | Berryessa | Camden Cypress | Evergreen | Gardner | Mayfair Roosevelt | Seven Trees | Southside Willow Glen | Vietnamese-American Cultural Center

For information, contact Josué Covarrubias at (408) 793-5589 or visit sanjoseca.gov/prns







The Census comes every ten years and is a critical part of the economy. It impacts where we work, what schools our kids go to, and how are families thrive and grow. The Vietnamese community must ensure that our community is accurately counted and represented. Census data determines how more than 800 billion dollars are spent on schools, hospitals, roads, businesses and public transportation. Please join Assemblymember Kalra and Vietnamese community leaders to learn more on how we can ensure that our community is accurately counted. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Christina Johnson at (408) 277-1220, or email christina.johnson@asm.ca.gov.



California Department of Public Health Update on Novel Coronavirus

The following is a novel coronavirus update from February 26, 2020.

Current status of the novel coronavirus 2019 in California (COVID-19)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed a possible first case of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in California in the general public. The individual is a resident of Solano County and is receiving medical care in Sacramento County. The individual had no known exposure to the virus through travel or close contact with a known infected individual.

On Thursday, February 27, Governor Gavin Newsom, California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Department of Public Health Director and State Health Officer Dr. Sonia Angell, and Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Mark Ghilarducci held a press conference to provide an update on the State's response to Novel Coronavirus. Governor Newsom did not announce a statewide emergency.

Governor Newsom announced that California is implementing protocols, including:

- Deep tracking and tracing
- Collaborative partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Working with frontline workers
- Expanding and advancing testing protocol capacity

What You Can Do

- $\sqrt{}$ Wash hands with soap and water
- $\sqrt{}$ Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- $\sqrt{}$ Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- $\sqrt{}$ Stay away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough

Further Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</u> California Department of Public Health: <u>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/</u> nCOV2019.aspx

Santa Clara County Public Health: <u>https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/</u> home.aspx

Kalra Recognizes Local Indigenous Leaders in Honor of Native American Heritage Month

In November of last year, Assemblymember Kalra hosted his annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration at Muwekma Ohlone Middle to celebrate and highlight the school's recent name change. The event began with an opening performance by the Future Generations Singers and Dancers, a cultural collaboration of Native American artists that seek to honor their ancestors by continuing their traditional songs, dances, and way of life.

Shortly after the powerful opening, the Assemblymember began the awards presentation. The Seven Generations Award went to Trustee Corina Cihuachimalli Herrera of the Huichol people, for her leadership on the Alum Rock Union School Board and for her commitment to empowering native youth through Mexica dancing. The Leadership in Service Award went to Sonya Tetnowski of the Makah Tribe. As a veteran, the CEO of the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, and the Board President of the California Consortium of Urban Indian Health, Sonya exemplifies service to others. The Leadership in Advocacy Award was presented to Chairman Valentin Lopez of the Amah Mutusn Tribe who has been an instrumental leader in the fight to protect Juristac from gravel mining and has consistently used his voice to protect indigenous people. The Legacy Award went to union leader Ray Baeza. As the founder of several calpullis and a key organizer for one of the largest Mexica New Year events in the nation, Ray has dedicated his life to sharing the traditional teachings of the Mexica people.

To end the night, the Assemblymember presented an apology resolution to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. Many in the Bay Area are not aware that the legal repression of Native Americans in California originated in San José through the adoption of the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians (Chapter 133, Statutes of 1850).



That act was authored by Assemblymember Elam Brown, who represented San José and substantial portions of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in the California State Assembly.

In his apology the Assemblymember stated, "The Act facilitated the removal of Native Americans from their traditional lands, separated a generation of children and adults from their families, languages, and cultures, legalized corporal punishment of Native Americans, and indentured thousands of Native American children. Knowing this history and the deep wounds that continue to exist because of it, I understand my distinct responsibility as a San Jose representative to help right this wrong. This apology will not erase the unjust history of this State, but will hopefully be an important step towards changing our relationship with our local tribes who have so often been neglected and disrespected." After the acceptance of the apology by the Muwekma Chair, Charlene Nijmeh, Calpulli Tonalehqueh performed a powerful closing ceremony.



A MESSAGE FROM COVERED CALIFORNIA

2020 Open Enrollment Results

Covered California released results from this year's open enrollment period announcing that 418,052 consumers newly selected health plans for 2020. This total for new enrollment is 41 percent higher than last year's figure of 295,080 consumers, and the highest new enrollment total since 2016.

The increase in new enrollment comes after the State of California enacted key policies in 2020 aiming to improve affordability and coverage:

New State Subsidies: California launched a state subsidy program in 2020 that expanded the amount of financial help available to low- and middle-income consumers. In doing so, it became the first state in the nation to provide premium subsidies to eligible consumers with incomes between 400 and 600 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) (individuals with income up to \$74,940 and a family of four with a household income of up to \$154,500).

Reinstitution of the Penalty in California: Effective January 2020, California requires its residents to have health insurance coverage — reinstating the federal penalty that was "zeroed out" in 2019 by federal action. Those who can afford coverage but choose to go without it could face a penalty when they file their taxes with the California Franchise Tax Board in 2021. The penalty can be more than \$2,000 for a family of four. Reinstatement of the penalty in California was a primary driver of an historically low premium increase of 0.8 percent for 2020. The low premium increase was largely driven by health insurance carriers' pricing based on assumptions that the reinstatement of the penalty would lead to larger, healthier enrollment.

Longer Open Enrollment Period: California extended its open-enrollment period through Jan. 31, compared to Jan. 15 last year. This compares to the federal open enrollment period which closes on December 15th. Covered California reported that an estimated 280,000 Californians likely eligible for new state or existing federal subsidies remained enrolled in "off-exchange" coverage purchased directly from a health insurance carrier. Most of these consumers earn under 400 percent of the FPL and would be eligible for both state and federal subsidy, while about 40,000 would be eligible to receive new state subsidies for middle-income Californians.



New Special Enrollment Period Announced – February 18 to April 30

Covered California announced that, effective February 18, 2020 it will establish a special enrollment period for those who were unaware of the state penalty or new state subsidies. Consumers who fall into these categories, or who are currently insured off-exchange and want to switch to Covered California to benefit from the new state subsidies will have through April 30th to sign up for coverage.

Starting this month, Covered California will launch a new campaign to publicize the special enrollment period that will span television and radio advertising, social media, and consumer emails. During the special enrollment period, consumers will be able to sign up at any point and be covered on the first day of

the following month. There are key deadlines consumers should know about in order to avoid the state penalty in 2020:

Consumers enrolling by **February 29** would have coverage effective **March 1**. They would <u>not</u> incur a penalty as they will have only have gone two months without coverage;

Consumers enrolling by **March 31** would have coverage effective **April 1**. They would <u>not</u> incur a penalty as they will have gone three months without coverage;

Consumers enrolling by **April 30** would have coverage effective **May 1**. These consumers would have more than three months without coverage and <u>would have a pro-rated penalty of 1/3 of the annual penalty amount</u> – assuming the individual is not otherwise exempt.

For more information, please visit <u>www.CoveredCA.com</u> or call Covered California at 800-300-1506.



COVERED CALIFORNIA

Kalra and Khanna Host Medicare for All Town Hall

In the U.S., two thirds of all bankruptcies are a result of medical expenses. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to get by, going into debt because of healthcare should be the least of their concerns. It is clear that something needs to change. On January 20th, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Congressman Ro Khanna and the California Nurse Association (CNA) came together to host a Medicare for All Town Hall in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who infamously stated, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Located at the Laborers Hall, over a hundred community members attended the event to learn more about our health care system and ask questions about what Medicare for All would look like. The event began with opening remarks from each of the panelists, including the Assemblymember himself, Congressman Khanna and Jennifer Holm with CNA. All three gave moving testimonies of the importance of providing quality health care that is accessible and affordable to every Californian. Topics ranged from: the large social and economic cost of our current health care system, the effects Medicare for All might have on health care workers, and the reasons why millions of Americans are currently left



uninsured or underinsured. At the end of the event, the Assemblymember stated, "Having our country represent the values and ideals that we espouse to — about having liberty, freedom, happiness and caring for one another — well, we're not living up to those ideals as it applies to our healthcare system." Though our health care system is in need of serious reform, the three panelist reminded everyone that nothing is impossible when people come together to demand a better world.

The Census is Important so Make Yourself Count: April 1, 2020



The 2020 Census is a top priority for the Legislature, Governor, and local communities. California will lose irreplaceable federal funding for schools, public assistance, transportation and other programs if the 2020 Census does a poor job reaching residents who are traditionally hard to count.

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

California is particularly vulnerable to an undercount. Three out of four residents belong to populations that are historically undercounted. This includes individuals 18 or under, men ages 18–49, African American or Latino residents, and renters. Our State leaders have dedicated an unprecedented \$180 million in State funds for Census outreach and communication programs, and outreach will be completed by the Statewide Complete Count Committee and local Complete Count Committees organized by local governments, community-based organizations and philanthropy. Research shows that who delivers the message matters. Census enumerators and volunteers need to reflect the diversity of the community they are working in.

Unfortunately, there will be real challenges resulting from operational changes in the way the Census is conducted by the federal government. For the first time, the Census will PRIMARILY be completed online. Hundreds of languages are spoken throughout California, but the Census will only be offered in 12 non- English languages online. For those that do not complete the Census online, the follow-up paper form will be printed in English and Spanish only. A Census employee will be sent to residences that have not completed the questionnaire online, by phone or mail.

General distrust of government coupled with misinformation and anti-immigrant sentiments will discourage many Californians from participating in the Census. Many fear that Census data will expose their personal information, immigration status, race, ethnicity and living situations (multi-generational homes, numerous families in a home, renting a nonconventional room, etc.). This is why it is important that we work together, along with our community partners, to create strong and trusted bonds with our residents and ensure everyone is counted.



\$3,000 GRANTS AVAILABLE

TO HELP SEISMICALLY RETROFIT YOUR HOUSE REGISTER FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 19, 2020

<u>WHO:</u> Homeowners in specific high-risk ZIP Codes with houses that have a raised foundation and are built before 1980 may qualify. (AD zipcodes: 95110, 95111, 95112, 95113, 95116, 95119, 95121, 95122, 95123, 95125, 95126, 95127, 95133, 95135, 95136, 95138, 95139, 95148)

WHAT: Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program offers up to \$3,000 toward a code-compliant seismic retrofit.

WHY: To lessen damage caused by earthquakes, the state-supported EBB program was created.

WHERE: You can register online at EarthquakeBraceBolt.com.

WHEN: Registration is open February 19 through March 19, 2020.

Homeowners will be randomly selected and notified. To qualify for reimbursement, homeowners must not apply for a permit until they have been accepted into the program and must not start the retrofit work until they have been approved by EBB to do so.

California Residential Mitigation Program 801 K Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 EarthquakeBraceBolt.com





877-232-4300



Know Before You Go

The Real Difference Between REAL ID and Federal Non-Compliant





REAL ID Driver License/ Identification Card

- To get one, you must visit a DMV office and bring:
 - One Proof of Identity
 - One Proof of Social Security Number
 - Two Proofs of California Residency
- Use it to fly within the U.S.
- Use it to enter secure federal facilities. (EX: federal courthouses, military bases)
- Features a bear and star.



Federal Non-Compliant Driver License / ID Card

- May renew online without going to a DMV office.*
- NOT allowed to board an airplane starting October 1, 2020.
- NOT allowed to enter secure federal facilities starting October 1, 2020.
- May require showing further evidence of legal presence to purchase a firearm.
- Indicates "FEDERAL LIMITS APPLY"



If you do not choose a REAL ID card, you will be issued the federal non-compliant driver license or identification card.

For more information visit REALID.dmv.ca.gov

*Certain customers may be required to renew in person. Check your DMV renewal paperwork to see if this applies.

DL 1010 D (NEW 8/2019

Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Care Center, and Make a Best Friend for Life!



February Feature: Sweetie - ID#A1158933

My name is Sweetie and I am a spayed female, torbi-brn and white Domestic Shorthair. The shelter staff think I am about 11 years old, and I have been at the shelter since December 21, 2019.

Sweetie is the sweetest! She is a big sweet girl with a big heart, but will need a quiet home. Sweetie is a senior cat who also needs someone to walk her down the path to weight loss (she is currently twenty three pounds). She is people-friendly, but would appreciate a quieter house with no young children.

Want to learn more about Sweetie, or make yourself a new best friend for life? Then please visit the San José Animal Care Center located at 2750 Monterey Road, San José, 95111, or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297) or visit www.sanjoseanimals.com. Hours of operation are on Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00 am-7:00 pm, and on Sunday from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.



Contact Us!

Want to sign up for the newsletter? Please email Stacie Shih at <u>stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov</u>.





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State Agencies Contact Information

www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra to find out!

Administrative Law Aging Alcoholic Beverage Control Board of Equalization Bureau of Automotive Repair California Courts California Highway Patrol Caltrans Child Supportive Services Consumer Affairs Controller's Office Developmental Services Employment Development Fair Employment & Housing Fair Political Practices Commission Fish & Wildlife Food & Agriculture Health Care Services High Speed Rail Authority Insurance Motor Vehicles Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0133 (800) 777-0369
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626
Water Resources	(916) 653-5791
	(10) 000 0/71



Save the Date

AD 27 2020 Women's History Month Celebration

Hosted by Assemblymember Ash Kalra

Saturday, March 21, 2020 12:00 pm—2:00 pm Culinary Corner

321 S. 1st Street, San Jose, 95113

For more information, please contact Christina Johnson at (408) 277-1220, or email christina.johnson@asm.ca.gov.