



2014 State & Federal Legislative Positions

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2014 California Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Sponsor	Description	GL Staffer	GL Position	Status
Boys & Men of Color					
AB 1829 Conway		This bill will prohibit a person who has been convicted of felony crimes of dishonesty or breach of trust in a state or federal jurisdiction or other specified crimes from being hired by or contracting with Covered California for the purpose of facilitating enrollment of persons in a qualified health plan in the Exchange.	Carla	Oppose	Died in Assembly Health
SB 1029 Hancock	Western Center on Law and Poverty, County Welfare Directors Association	California's racial and ethnic minorities make up the majority of the prison population, with blacks and Hispanics comprising a full 70 percent of those in state institutions—and in a state that is already majority minority—this is a problem. The best way to ensure that ex-inmates stay on a positive, productive path is to make sure they have a fighting chance in the legal economy. This bill will allow individuals previously convicted of a nonviolent drug felony who meet all other eligibility rules to receive basic needs services, employment training and work supports through the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs, provided that they are complying with the conditions of their release, or have successfully completed their probation or parole.	Carla	Support	Ordered Inactive on request of Senator Hancock—Passed in State Budget

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SB 1384 Mitchell		Certified nurse assistants fall under a broader group of health care workers known as allied health professionals. These jobs require little educational attainment with 65 percent of allied health professionals being people of color. Given the diversity of allied health professionals and the disparate rate at which people of color – specifically boys and men of color – are incarcerated, expanding access to job certification and training to people with criminal backgrounds will have a direct, positive impact on low-income people of color. This bill will remove DPH's authority to deny training, examination application, and certification of current and future certified nurse assistants who have been convicted of a violation or attempted violation of one or more specified crimes.	Carla	Support	In Assembly Appropriations
AB 2060 Manuel Perez		People of color are disproportionately represented in California's criminal justice system, comprising more than 75 percent of inmates. Additionally, people of color are more likely than their white counterparts to recidivate and have substantially higher unemployment rates than their white counterparts. This bill will use Recidivism Reduction Fund monies to establish the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program. The funds would support vocational training, stipends for trainees, and apprenticeship opportunities for the supervised population. The supervised population includes individuals on probation, mandatory supervision, and post release community supervision.	Jordan	Support	Senate Appropriations
SB 1010 Mitchell	Drug Policy Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, A New Way of Life, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, California Public Defenders Assoc., California State Conference-- NAACP, Californians for Safety & Justice, Ella Baker Center, Friends Committee on Legislation, National Council for La Raza, William C. Velázquez Institute	Whatever their intended goal, disparate sentencing guidelines for two forms of the same drug has resulted in a pattern of institutional racism, with longer prison sentences given to people of color who are more likely than whites to be arrested and incarcerated for crack cocaine offenses compared to powder cocaine offenses, despite comparable rates of use and sales across racial and ethnic groups, according to multiple national surveys. This bill will equalize the penalties for crack cocaine to the current penalties for powder cocaine; and will correct the groundless disparity in sentencing and probation guidelines for possession of crack cocaine for sale versus the same crime involving powder cocaine that has resulted in a pattern of racial discrimination in sentencing and incarceration in California.	Carla	Support	Assembly Floor

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Democracy / Voting Rights					
AB 2715 Hernandez		The state Voting Rights Act was written with communities of color in mind. At-large elections can make it challenging for communities of color to elect candidates of color to office when there is racially polarized voting. District-based elections (when districted fairly) can help lead to fairer elections. This bill will require district-based elections for any city that has a population over 100,000. Current voting rights law says IF there is racially polarized voting, a jurisdiction may be required to have district-based elections. This bill is cutting out that costly IF piece (it's expensive to do that analysis) and just saying, no more at-large elections.	Michelle	Support	In Assembly Appropriations
Economic Equity					
SB 896 Correa	MAF (sponsor) National Council of La Raza (NCLR) CFED Family Independence Initiative	Millions of Californians lack of access to affordable and responsible financial products. Close to 1 million households in California do not have checking or savings accounts and 57% of consumers in California have subprime credit scores, meaning they have to pay significantly more for loans. This bill will help low income Californians realize their full economic potential by improving access to quality small dollar loans. It will encourage nonprofit organizations to enter the small-dollar lending space by establishing a licensing exemption within the California Finance Lenders Law for nonprofits facilitating zero-interest, credit-building, and small-dollar loans.	Aysha	Support	In Assembly, ordered to a third reading
Education					
AB 1956 Bonilla		There are numerous reports that demonstrate the disproportionate impact that college debt has on students of color. This bill will reduce student debt and encourage families to save for their children's education by providing a tax credit to families that invest in the state's 529 college savings plan. This bill provides a refundable tax credit of 20% of the amount contributed to a 529 college savings plan up to \$2,500, for a maximum credit of \$500 per year.	Orson	Support	Referred to committee on revenue and tax. Bill might be heard March 22nd.

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Energy & Telecommunications					
AB 1876 Quirk		California's inmate population is disproportionately people of color, especially African Americans and Latinos. As such, inflated costs for phone calls disproportionately impact our families and communities. This bill will prohibit a county jail from accepting commissions or other payments from a telephone company as an incentive to contract with that company for inmate phone service. These kickbacks inflate the cost of phone service to the benefit of county law enforcement. 2007 legislation prohibited kickbacks for state prisons, and this bill extends that protection to county jails. The 2007 bill was successful in reducing phone costs for state prison inmates.	Stephanie	Support	In Senate Appropriations
AB 1717 Perea		To the extent that there is a racial wealth and income gap, communities of color are disproportionately likely to use prepaid phone service. This bill will create an unnecessarily complex mechanism for collecting certain taxes and public purpose surcharges from prepaid phone customers, who do not currently pay them. Greenlining agrees that all customers should pay their fair share, but the collection mechanism this bill creates is needlessly expensive and will increase costs to customers beyond their fair share.	Stephanie	Oppose	In Senate Appropriations
AB 2145 Bradford		Currently, few customers receive service from CCAs, but interest is growing. Richmond is the most prominent community of color in a CCA today, and the entity has already demonstrated a sound commitment to equity and to providing first-rate service to diverse communities. CCA could provide positive competition for regulated utilities in how they serve diverse communities, without fully deregulating energy service, which is risky at best. They should be afforded the chance to grow and compete. This bill will make Community Choice Aggregation significantly more difficult to implement, which would effectively kill this model for electricity delivery.	Stephanie	Oppose	In Senate Appropriations
Environmental Equity					

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Health					
SB 1002 de Leon		This bill requires counties to begin a new 12-month eligibility period for Medi-Cal when approving or recertifying an individual's eligibility for CalFresh benefits in order to align Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility periods, unless doing so would reduce benefits or increase the share of costs for any member of the beneficiary's family.	Carla	Support	In Assembly Appropriations
SB 1005 Lara		The Affordable Care Act specifically excluded undocumented immigrants--most of whom are people of color--from insurance coverage provided through Medi-Cal and Covered California. This bill would will expand access to health care coverage for all Californians, regardless of immigration status. This bill will authorize enrollment in the Medi-Cal program, or in insurance offered through a separate new health benefit exchange, to individuals who would otherwise qualify for enrollment in those programs but are denied based on their immigration status.	Carla	Support	Held in Senate Appropriations.
SB 1000 Monning and Steinberg		Sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) are the biggest contributor of added calories in the American diet, and disproportionately contribute to obesity rates among people of color and low-income communities. This bill will (a) prohibit distributing/selling/offering SSBs unless the item and/or vending machine displays the safety warning (b) requires distributors/sellers/retailers to maintain records for 2 years following each point of sale in order to track quantity and type of SSB distributed/purchased/sold (c) establish a \$50-\$500 civil penalty for violators, funding the local enforcement agencies (d) requires CDPH to adopt regulations.	Carla	Support	Held in Assembly Health
AB 503 Wieckowski, and Bonta	Greenlining, CAN, CRLA	People of color and low-income communities will still need access to charity care post-Affordable Care Act, which includes dollars allocated for keeping these communities from getting sick in the first place. For private not-for-profit hospitals and multi-specialty clinics, This bill will (a) standardize definitions and calculation of charity care (b) update community benefit plan requirements (c) strengthen the health needs assessment process and improve community participation in the development of implementation strategies (d) and create a 25% threshold to spend community benefit dollars in underserved and vulnerable populations for prevention.	Carla	Co Sponsor and Support	In Senate Appropriations

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AB 2102 Ting		Currently, it is difficult to identify where there are acute health workforce shortages. This bill will require the collection and reporting of certain demographic data from fee-supported boards on allied health professions, including registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory care providers, vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians. The demographic information includes: (1) location(s) of practice, (2) race/ethnicity of workforce, (3) language(s) spoken, and (4) educational background	Carla	Support	In Senate Appropriations
AB 2382 Bradford	Children's Defense Fund, Western Center on Law and Poverty, National Association of Working Women	In California, 35 percent of black children and almost 40 percent of Latino children live in poverty compared to 14 percent of white children. Thusly, the majority of families eligible for CalWORKs are of color. This bill will revise the requirements that a family's grant amount be reduced if a county determines that a child under 16 years of age is not regularly attending school. This bill would also require that a child over the age of 16 be informed of continuation schools within the county if it is determined that he/she is not enrolled in school or a welfare-to-work plan.	Carla	Support	In Senate Appropriations
SB 1094 Lara		In this era of hospital mergers and consolidations, low-income communities of color often suffer the most. Hospital consolidations and mergers are usually done for financial purposes, and sometimes in an effort to lure wealthier patients/consumers. This bill will provide an additional 30 days for the AG to review proposed transactions involving non-profit health facilities, and allows the AG to amend the conditions of an agreement or transaction involving a non-profit health facility if a party to the transaction or agreement misrepresented information or their intentions in negotiations with the AG. Any proposed amendments must be substantially related to the materials that were misrepresented. Giving the AG more time and authority to review non-profit health facilities mergers and consolidations may lessen the chance that hospitals currently serving low-income communities of color are bought out or repurposed.	Carla	Support	In Assembly Appropriations