



# ASSEMBLYMEMBER COREY JACKSON, DSW, MSW.

## 60<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

### AB 1799 - Public health: annual state of public health in California

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

AB 1799 seeks to require the State Public Health Officer to include the impact of racism on public health in their annual written report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of public health in California.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Current law requires the State Public Health Officer to submit a written report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of public health in California and present an update annually to the Assembly Committee on Budget and Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, or relevant subcommittees, during legislative budget hearings.<sup>1</sup>

The state of public health report currently does not address or capture the impact of racism on public health, and thus, leaves a key factor in public health outcomes off the table, further exacerbating the harm of leaving racism out of public health conversations.

#### **PROBLEM**

The impact of racism on public health is a well-documented and studied. Declarations of Racism as a Public Health Crisis have spread all across the country, with 37 states having, on some level, declared racism as a public health crisis. Notably, California leads the nation with 37 such declarations.<sup>2</sup>

Data has shown that historically redlined census tracts have significantly higher rates of emergency department visits due to asthma, suggesting that this discriminatory practice might be contributing to racial and ethnic asthma health disparities.<sup>3</sup>

A 2021 study including over 64,000 live births in 17 zip codes, found that historically redlined zip codes were associated with increased risk of preterm and periviable birth.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Law section \(ca.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Racism Declarations Analysis](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Associations between historical residential redlining and current age-adjusted rates of emergency department visits due to asthma across eight cities in California: an ecological study - The Lancet Planetary Health](#)

Racial disparities are striking with regard to how often Black patients do not receive life-saving care, thereby impacting who lives and who dies after cardiac arrest, for example. In addition, Black and Hispanic/Latino patients experience significantly lower survival rates following hospital discharge than White patients, even when controlling for socioeconomic status.<sup>5</sup>

Despite an increase in health insurance coverage since the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) American Indian/Alaska Native persons (22%), Hispanic/Latino persons (19%), and Black persons (12%) are more likely to be uninsured than White persons (8%) and Asian persons (7%).<sup>6</sup>

The exclusion of the impact racism has on public health prevents a comprehensive view on key issues, (and the potential causes of the issues) and could also potentially limit effective policy solutions to address racial disparities in health outcomes.

#### **SOLUTION**

AB 1799 seeks to require the State Public Health Officer to include the impact of racism on public health in their annual written report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of public health in California.

#### **SUPPORT:**

Center Against Racism & Trauma Inc. (CART)  
(Sponsor)

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<sup>4</sup> [Associations Between Historically Redlined Districts and Racial Disparities in Current Obstetric Outcomes](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association | Circulation \(ahajournals.org\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [IBID](#)