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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

March 1909 “More than a thousand dentists in California are awaiting the action of Gov. Gillette on conflicting dental bills passed by the Legislature... The Leeds bill, favored by the dental associations, does away with the apprenticeship system and requires all licensed dentists to be graduates of a reputable dental school. Under the present law, an apprentice, after serving four years, may take the State examination.... The other bill is championed by Senator Hurd. It provides that any person who has practiced for ten years or who can present a certificate, signed by two licensed dentists, that he has four years practice, may be licensed on passing an examination in practice only. The present law requires examinations in both theory and practice.” *Los Angeles Times* (March 24, 1909) pg. II8

1909 “The code of professional ethics was tossed to the winds yesterday by the Southern California Dental Association when it adopted resolutions recommending that Dr. A.B. Mayhew, president of the State Board of Dental Examiners, be removed from his position.... The particular grievance against Mayhew is that he abused a member of the Legislature- Assemblyman Mott – who voted against the bill introduced by Assemblyman Leeds. Mott was the only member of the Legislature to vote against the measure. But Mayhew was peeved. So after the session, Mayhew proceeded to castigate Mott. It was a hard drubbing and those who were near were disgusted with Mayhew. The men nearly came to blows. The feelings were strong against Mayhew and the bill he had sponsored. What happened in respect to the Hurd bill indicated the attitude of the Assembly. Those who on the previous day had voted for the Leeds bill turned squarely around and voted for the Hurd measure.” *Los Angeles Times* (June 29 1909) pg. III

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a service provided to the Legislature and the Governor's Office by the California State Library's California Research Bureau. Weekly lists of current articles related to legislative issues will be supplemented by monthly lists focusing on a specific area of public policy. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library's Web site at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.

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- The list which follows shows only current additions to the collection. If you would like a cumulative list, or a cumulative list for only selected topics, please email crb@library.ca.gov , subject: Studies in the News.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRUGS

Troubled Neighbor: Mexico's Drug Violence Poses a Threat to the United States.
By Ted Galen Carpenter, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC)
February 2, 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa631.pdf>

["Abandoning the prohibitionist model of dealing with the drug problem is the only effective way to stem the violence in Mexico and its spillover into the United States. Other proposed solutions, including preventing the flow of guns from the U.S. to Mexico, establishing tighter control over the border, and (somehow) winning the war on drugs are futile. As long as the prohibitionist strategy is in place, the huge blackmarket premium in illegal drugs will continue, and the lure of that profit, together with the illegality, guarantees that the most ruthless, violence-prone elements will dominate the trade. Ending drug prohibition would de-fund the criminal trafficking organizations and reduce their power."]

[Request #S09-9-3322]

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FORENSIC LABORATORIES

Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. By the Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) February 2009.

["Crime laboratories around the country are grossly underfunded, lack a scientific foundation and are compromised by critical delays in analyzing physical evidence, according to a broad study of forensic techniques. Among its many criticisms, the study counted a backlog of 359,000 requests for forensic analysis in 2005, a 24 percent increase in delays since 2002. A survey of crime laboratories found 80 percent of them to be understaffed. A new federal agency is needed to regulate these laboratories, standardize forensic techniques and pay for research.... Crime laboratories should be managed separately from police departments to ensure that their findings are protected from bias, the report said." New York Times (February 18, 2009) 1.] Note: Strengthening Forensic Science... is available for loan.
[Request #S09-9-3359]

Book. 254 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12589

Executive Summary. 41 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap/cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12589&type=pdfxsum

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GANGS

Education of Parents in the Development of Strategies to Keep Their Children Out of Gangs. By the Orange County Grand Jury. (The Jury, Santa Ana, California) March 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/gang-intervention/Gang-intervention.pdf>

["Most children at high risk for gang activity come from large families. When the intervention activities are aimed at the parents of these children, all the siblings can be helped at one time with a fraction of the effort that would be needed to help each child individually. It is far more cost-effective and efficient to focus on helping parents develop workable strategies to keep their children out of gangs than it is to work with only the children. The director of a gang prevention unit that works with parents stated that 85 to 90% of all parents involved in this type of program are eager to learn these strategies and capable of using them to help their children. In no more than 15% of cases, the parents themselves are in gangs and therefore unwilling to help, or are for some reason incapable of helping."]

[Request #S09-9-3472]

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IMMIGRATION

Jailed without Justice: Immigration Detention in the USA. By Amnesty International USA. (Amnesty International, New York, New York) March 2009.

["A scathing report on the treatment of immigration detainees held in detention centers and more than 300 local facilities, charges that the federal government violates human rights by allowing tens of thousands of people to languish in custody every year without receiving hearings to determine whether their detention is warranted. The vast majority of the detainees have a hard time getting an attorney, some so desperate they ask to be deported even if they believe they're entitled to stay in this country.... Much of the research for the report was done in the Bay Area. The report's most serious complaint is that the jail commingles criminal inmates with immigration detainees -- which Amnesty says is a violation of international standards." San Jose Mercury News (March 24, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-9-3491]

Report. 56 p.

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/uploads/JailedWithoutJustice.pdf>

Executive Summary. 3 p.

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/immigrant-detention/jailed-without-justice-executive-summary/page.do?id=1641033>

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California Economic Development Recovery Strategy: Draft for Public Review. By the Chairman of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, California State Assembly. (The Assembly, Sacramento, California) March 12, 2009. 138 p.

Full text at:

http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a80/pdf/Public_Draft_CA_ED_Recovery_Strategy.pdf

["The report serves as a blueprint for state economic and workforce development actions over the next 24 months. This is an initial draft of the Strategy and it has been put forth as a document to help engage the Legislature and the public in the important discussion of the future of our communities. The foundational principles of the strategy are to: 1) Design a Strategy that leads to a renewed vision of California's future; 2) Leverage California's innovation leadership; 3) Weigh actions today against impacts tomorrow; 4) Manage toward defined outcomes; and 5) Focus on local and regional delivery strategies"]

[Request #S09-9-3469]

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CITIES

Navigating the Fiscal Crisis: Tested Strategies for Local Leaders. By Gerald J. Miller and James H. Svara, Arizona State University, editors. Prepared for the International City/County Management Association. (Alliance for Innovation, Phoenix, Arizona) January 2009. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://www.transformgov.org/files/whitepaper/Navigating_the_Fiscal_Crisis.pdf

["The fiscal crisis that city and county governments face calls for action by local officials at all levels of government. There are lessons to be learned from past stimulus programs. We know that: 1) Tax cuts have less impact than cash grant to localities; 2) Capital project support has a greater impact than operating expenditure support; and 3). Higher-level government project and block grants speed recovery in comparison to formula grant. Local leaders can turn crisis into opportunity, if the organization is well managed and takes the long view.... The governments that can take these steps toward renewal will be better positioned to achieve higher levels of performance when the crisis ends."]

[Request #S09-9-3385]

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PERSONAL INCOME

The 2009 MetLife Study of the American Dream. By the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. (The Company, New York, New York) March 2009. 38 p.

Full text at:

http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/gbms/studies/09010229_09AmDreamStudy_Web.pdf

["Now in its third year, this study finds that the dream has once again been revised - - possibly to a greater extent than could have been imagined just one year ago. The tectonic shifts that will be described on the following pages would typically be expected to span decades. Yet, as this year's study reveals, the country has experienced major changes that will likely have a lasting impact on how Americans achieve and sustain the dream. Roughly one-third of Americans believe they have already achieved the dream, down only slightly from one year ago. For those still in pursuit, however, the quest to reach their destination has become more difficult. And for those Americans who believe they have reached the dream, many are worried about backsliding. No longer the permanent destination it once was, being able to sustain the dream is becoming as important as achieving it in the first place."]

[Request #S09-9-3434]

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PRODUCTIVITY

Strengthening American Competitiveness: Regaining Our Competitive Edge: Four Priorities and 20 New Ideas. By Jason Bordoff, Hamilton Project, and others. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) February 2009. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02_american_competitiveness_brainard/02_american_competitiveness_brainard.pdf

["This paper addresses this central challenge for the United States. We begin by discussing the economic downturn and financial turmoil facing the country and how policymakers should respond to both boost our economy in the short-run and also build the foundations for long-term competitiveness. Second, the competitiveness agenda is motivated by, and must therefore be responsive to, at least three changes in the fabric of the global economy: the increase in global integration; the attendant shift in economic power to rising powers such as Brazil, China and India; and the realization of the existential threat that climate change poses. Finally, we lay out the fundamentals of a competitiveness agenda through descriptions of specific policy proposals by leading experts on how to invest more robustly in infrastructure, people, ideas and green transformation."]

[Request #S09-9-3362]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Poverty and Potential: Out-of-School Factors and School Success. By David C. Berliner, Arizona State University. (Education Policy Research Unit, Tempe, Arizona) March 2009. 54 p.

Full text at: <http://epicpolicy.org/files/PB-Berliner-NON-SCHOOL.pdf>

["Research evidence shows how seven out-of-school factors influence students' academic success and lead to inequalities among children: prenatal care; health care; food insecurity; environmental pollutants; family stress; neighborhood characteristics; and extended learning opportunities, such as preschool or summer programs. To tackle those issues, the report offers a laundry list of recommendations for policymakers. They include reducing the rate of low-birthweight children born to African-American mothers and reducing drug and alcohol abuse, pollutant levels in cities, and rates of student mobility and absenteeism in schools. The report also calls on the nation to provide high-quality preschools for all children, summer programs for disadvantaged children, and universal, free medical care." Education Week (March 11, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-9-3431]

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SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Reengaging High School Dropouts: Early Results of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program Evaluation. By Dan Bloom and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) February 2009.

["High school dropouts face daunting odds of success in a labor market that increasingly rewards education and skills. This report presents very early results from a rigorous, independent evaluation of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, an intensive residential program that aims to 'reclaim the lives' of young people ages 16 to 18 who have dropped out of school. ChalleNGe currently operates in more than half the states. About 75,000 young people have completed the program since the early 1990s. The 17-month ChalleNGe program is divided into three phases: Pre-ChalleNGe, which is a two-week orientation and assessment period; a 20-week Residential Phase built around eight core components designed to promote positive youth development; and a one-year Postresidential Phase featuring a structured mentoring program."]

[Request #S09-9-3459]

Report. 102 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/512/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 9 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/512/execsum.pdf>

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SCHOOL REFORM

School Turnarounds: Resisting the Hype, Giving Them Hope. By Frederick M. Hess and Thomas Gift, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2009. 5 p.

Full text at: http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090225_0223911EduOFeb09_g.pdf

["School turnarounds take failing educational institutions and improve them through coaching, mentoring, capacity building, best practices, and other existing tools. But evidence suggests the need to proceed with realistic expectations. Four key lessons have been learned. 1) School leaders must have autonomy, flexibility, and urgency if they are to have a chance at staging a turnaround, 2) Reformers should not hesitate to change principals and school leaders to jump-start the turnaround process, 3) Reformers need to view school turnarounds as an all-or-nothing proposition to avoid the pitfalls caused by unclear or conflicting objectives. 4) Once the decision is made to go forward with a turnaround, reformers should avoid forcing change on the school through organization-wide, top-down mandates."]

[Request #S09-9-3448]

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TEACHING CREDENTIALS

Realizing the Promise: How State Policy Can Support Alternative Certification Programs. By Robin Chait, Center for American Progress, and Michele McLaughlin, Teach For America. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2009.

["The education community is in virtually unanimous agreement that effective teaching is critical to all other education reform efforts. This consensus has led to an increase in policies focused on improving teacher quality. Yet the question of how policy can drive changes in the quality of the teaching force is complex and yields no easy answers. One increasingly promising strategy is the development of alternative preparation and certification programs. These programs can increase the supply of talented teaching candidates, particularly for subject shortage areas and high-needs schools.... This paper analyzes the policies that are needed and puts them into three categories: minimizing participant burden, ensuring program quality, and encouraging innovation and growth."] [Request #S09-9-3484]

Report. 32 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/alternative_certification.pdf

Executive Summary. 7 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/alternative_certification_exec_summ.pdf

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

The 2006 Swift Raids: Assessing the Impact of Immigration Enforcement Actions at Six Facilities. By Jerry Kammer, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2009/back309.pdf>

["The report looked at the aftermath of six immigration raids at Swift & Co. meat-packing plants in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Colorado and Utah. About 1,300 undocumented workers were arrested, and another 400 without authorization to work in the United States were detected around the same time through better company screening.... 'At the four facilities for which we were able to obtain information, wages and bonuses rose on average 8 percent with the departure of illegal immigrants.' Kammer said. Swift used pay increases and signing bonuses to staff the plants after the raids. Kammer concludes that these six Swift plants could operate without the presence of illegal workers, 'even when having to restaff during a period of low national unemployment up through early 2007.'" The Hill (March 18, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-9-3490]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Wired for Progress: Building a National Clean-Energy Smart Grid. By Bracken Hendricks, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2009.

["Largely unchanged in generations, we are now using yesterday's technologies to power an increasingly global 21st-century economy. Previous waves of investment in electricity infrastructure were essential to building the global economic and industrial leadership that was the hallmark of the U.S. economy in the last century.... Today's grid cannot respond effectively to the most pressing new challenges we now face -- from terrorism to global warming to ever-rising demand. Nor is our current electricity grid capable of capturing the opportunity created by recent advances in information technology; exciting new tools for producing radical gains in energy efficiency, reliability, and security; or the deployment of clean renewable energy at the scale needed to meet the clean-energy demands of a new century."] [Request #S09-9-3451]

Report. 66 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/electricity_grid.pdf

Executive Summary. 22 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/energy_grid_execsumm.pdf

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GASOLINE AND DIESEL

Fuel Delivery Temperature Study. By the California Energy Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) March 2009. 149 p.

Full text at: <http://energy.ca.gov/2009publications/CEC-600-2009-002/CEC-600-2009-002-CMF.PDF>

["The issue of reduced volumes of gasoline or diesel when distributed at high temperature, or 'hot fuel,' is not new. It is, however, a controversial subject that has created strong and divergent opinions. Some stakeholders believe that if temperature compensation was practiced at retail stations, motorists would realize significant monetary benefits in the warmer areas of the United States. This report quantifies the benefits and costs associated with temperature compensation for retail sales of gasoline and diesel fuels in California. The cost-benefit analysis concludes that the results are negative or a net cost to society under all the options examined, however when quantified by cents per gallon these costs are small. It is also unlikely that there are any plausible circumstances consumers could receive a small net benefit with installed ATC devices at California's retail stations."] [Request #S09-9-3463]

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NUCLEAR POWER

Nuclear Loan Guarantees: Another Taxpayer Bailout Ahead? By David Schlissel, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., and others. (Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge, Massachusetts) March 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nuclear_power/nuclear-loan-guarantees.pdf

["Advocates of nuclear power are promoting a 'nuclear renaissance,' based on claims that a new generation of reactors will produce relatively cheap electricity while solving the threat posed by global climate change.... However, ensuring that these new plants will be economical is a huge challenge for the industry. Congress has responded by authorizing massive loan guarantees for builders of the plants, and is on the verge of expanding this program before it begins. That means taxpayers and ratepayers may end up bailing out the U.S. nuclear power industry for a third time.... Congress and the DOE should limit loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants to a small number of 'firstmover' units, to demonstrate the feasibility of new plant designs and the new NRC licensing process."]

[Request #S09-9-3482]

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean Energy Trends 2009. By Joel Makower and others, Clean Edge, Inc. (Clean Edge, San Francisco, California) March 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cleandge.com/reports/pdf/Trends2009.pdf>

["Worldwide sales of solar cells, biofuels and wind turbines soared 53 percent last year to hit \$115.9 billion before the global recession started sapping their strength. After years of rapid growth fueled by rising oil prices and fears of global warming, the industry was finally making serious cash. Green businesses were hiring, with solar and wind companies accounting for a total of 600,000 jobs worldwide. But as 2008 wore on, the world slid deeper into recession, the oil market crashed and banks stopped lending to green startups. As a result, the report's authors expect the industry's sales to flatline or fall slightly in 2009. And some green-tech companies won't live to see 2010." San Francisco Chronicle (March 11, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-9-3460]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

BAY DELTA

Delta Risk Management Strategy: Phase I. By the California Department of Water Resources. (The Department, Sacramento, California) February 2009.

["Earthquakes and severe storms could destroy hundreds of miles of mostly earthen levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in coming decades, according to a state report that provides the most detail yet on the vulnerabilities of the hub of California's water system.... There is a 40 percent chance that a major earthquake will flood 27 delta islands between now and 2030, costing billions in repairs and knocking out the water source for 25 million Californians for more than a year.... Without intervention, about 140 levees could fail in the next century due to storms or rising seas. An earthquake of magnitude 6.7 or greater could result in fatalities, flooding of islands and costs of \$15 billion....The second part of the report, to be released this fall, will focus on ways to head off those worst-case scenarios." San Francisco Chronicle (March 21, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-9-3489]

Report. Various pagings.

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/sab/drmsp/phase1_information.cfm

Executive Summary. 32 p.

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/sab/drmsp/docs/drms_execsum_ph1_final_low.pdf

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CLIMATE CHANGE

The Economic Analysis of the Western Climate Initiative's Regional Cap-and-Trade Program. By David G. Tuerck and others, Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University. (The Institute, Boston, Massachusetts) March 2009. 29 p.

Full text at: <http://www.beaconhill.org/BHISTudies/WCI-2009/WCIReportFinal090323.pdf>

["In this report, we analyze the Western Climate Initiative projections of cost savings and provide independent estimates of the economic impact of the proposed cap-and-trade scenarios coupled with complementary policies.... The proposals' negative economic effects stem from the price and tax increases they would impose on the energy and transportation sectors. Our results contrast with the positive results produced by the WCI report, which suffers from the previously-described deficiencies. Policymakers in the states need to be careful of the economic consequences of implementing a regional cap-and-trade system."]

[Request #S09-9-3486]

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LEAD

Indecent Exposure: Lead Puts Workers and Families at Risk. By Holly Brown-Williams and others, Health Research for Action, UC Berkeley. (Health Research for Action, Berkeley, California) March 2009. 9 p.

Full text at: <http://healthresearchforaction.org/perspectives/occupational-lead-exposure.pdf>

["Although the use of lead in nonbattery products has declined in the US and some other parts of the industrialized world, the use of lead worldwide continues to grow, especially in battery applications. As scientific evidence has shown more serious health effects associated with lower lead levels than previously anticipated, the number of persons who must be considered at risk increases dramatically.... OSHA standards for permissible lead exposure limits were established in the late 1970s.. Over the past three decades, extensive research has shown that lead causes significant health problems in adults at much lower levels. Cumulative exposure to low to moderate levels of lead has been associated with an increased risk of hypertension and reduced cognitive and kidney function."]

[Request #S09-9-3462]

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SALMON

What Caused the Sacramento River Fall Chinook Stock Collapse? By S. T. Lindley and others, Southwest Fisheries Science Center. (The Center, La Jolla, California) March 2009. 57 p.

Full text at:
http://swfsc.noaa.gov/uploadedFiles/Operating_units/FED/Salmon_decline_report_March_2009.pdf

["Sacramento River's prized chinook salmon suffered a one-two punch from poor conditions in the ocean and the river, leading to the sudden collapse of the fall run. Years of losing habitat to water diversions and storage in the Central Valley so weakened the fall run that it couldn't withstand two recent years of scanty food supply in the warming Pacific Ocean. When the Central Valley had many salmon runs, the fish would migrate to the ocean at different times, increasing their odds of surviving unpredictable conditions. But the biggest remaining run, the fall run, is heavy on hatchery fish that all migrate at once and can be wiped out by poor climate and sparse food.... Representatives of environmental and commercial fishing groups said the study ignored the need for freshwater flows for the fish to get through the delta to the bay and the ocean." Sacramento Bee (March 19, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-9-3485]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

American Civil Rights Foundation v. Berkeley Unified School District, et al. California Court of Appeals, First Appellate District. A121137. March 17, 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/A121137.PDF>

["A court breathed new life into campus integration efforts, ruling that Berkeley does not violate California's ban on racial preferences when it considers the makeup of students' neighborhoods in deciding where they will go to school. Berkeley's policy 'does not show partiality, prejudice or preference to any student on the basis of that student's race,' said the court. 'All students in a given residential area are treated equally.' The ruling is the first by an appellate court on a school district's voluntary integration plan since California voters passed Proposition 209 in 1996, prohibiting preferences by race or sex in state and local education, employment and contracting. The case could be heading for the state Supreme Court for a decision on whether Prop. 209 forbids any consideration of race in government programs." San Francisco Chronicle (March 18, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-9-3461]

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STATE BUDGET

Federal Economic Stimulus Package: Fiscal Effect on California. By Farra Bracht, Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) March 10, 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/bud/fed_stimulus/fed_stimulus_031009.pdf

["This report focuses on the state aid component of the stimulus package, as it consists of federal dollars which the Legislature will be most involved. The state aid 'pie' consists of three pieces: 1) federal dollars that can be used to address budget shortfalls; 2) funds that supplement existing state spending; and 3) competitive grants. California will receive over \$31 billion from the first two components and billions more in competitive grants. A portion of the \$31 billion in aid to California will be available to address the state's budgetary problems. Based on the state 2009-10 budget, California can use \$10.4 billion in new federal dollars for this purpose over the life of ARRA."]
[Request #S09-9-3430]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Pensionomics: Measuring the Economic Impact of State & Local Pension Plans.
By Ilana Boivie and Beth Almeida, National Institute on Retirement Security.
(The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2009.

["State and local government pension plans are highly valued by the teachers, public safety personnel, and other public servants who count on these plans for a secure source of income in retirement. But the benefits provided by state and local government pension plans have an impact that reaches well beyond the retirees who receive pension checks.... Public pension payments are vital to small communities and economies across the country where, due to lack of diverse local industries, other steady sources of income may not be readily found. Such reliable sources of income may be especially important in stabilizing local economies during economic downturns, because, as compared to more individualized forms of retirement income, pension income is guaranteed, so retirees need not worry about reducing spending with every dip in the stock market."]
[Request #S09-9-3483]

Report. 28 p.

<http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/Pensionomics%20Report.pdf>

California findings. 2 p.

http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/factsheet_CA.pdf

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STATE DEBT

"What Do Debt Loads Say about California's Fiscal Condition?" By John Decker. IN: California Journal of Politics and Policy, vol. 1, no. 1 (2009) pp. 1-9

Full text at: <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol1/iss1/9/?sending=10539>

["For the past seven years, the state spent more from the General Fund than its tax structure generated. To help cover the difference, the state borrowed from institutional investors. Should Californians be concerned? More broadly, how does debt fit into the annual budget debate? Evaluation of debt loads help Californians assess the fiscal prudence and sustainability of the state's fiscal structures."]
[Request #S09-9-3453]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CLINICS

Financial Health of Community Clinics. By Falayi Aduand others, Capital Link. Prepared for the California Healthcare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) March 2009. 21 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/FinancialHealthCommunityClinics.pdf>

["Community clinics are a part of California's health care safety net -- especially for the state's growing populations of uninsured and low-income consumers. In a period of economic distress for many Californians, the financial viability of community clinics is particularly important. This report captures key measures of community clinics' financial health from 2003 to 2006. California's community clinics have grown significantly in the number of clinics, patient visits, revenues, and expenses. By 2006 there were 762 clinic sites, up from 596 in 2003.... About two-thirds of clinic revenues come from patient services, which increased 43% from 2003 to 2006 -- faster than other revenue streams. Clinics are dependent on Medi-Cal programs, which provide 70% of revenues from patient services."] [Request #S09-9-3470]

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Analysis of State Regulations and Policies Governing the Operation and Licensure of Retail Clinics. By Mary Takach and Kathy Witgert, National Academy for State Health Policy. (The Academy, Portland, Oregon) February 2009

["The recent proliferation of retail clinics -- more than 1,000 sites in 37 states -- provides many consumers with an alternative source for certain types of care. These clinics, usually located in urban and suburban retail facilities and staffed primarily by nurse practitioners rather than physicians, offer fast access to and lower cost for evidence-based care. Retail clinics also pose challenges and opportunities for state policymakers and regulatory agencies, such as: Insufficient state regulation or physician oversight may lead to inappropriate care delivery or coordination; Clinic payment structures may exclude underserved populations; Retail clinics may reduce the viability of safety-net clinics; Retail clinics may present conflicts of interest; and Corporate practice of medicine laws may deter some retail clinic systems from operating in a given state."] [Request #S09-9-3360]

Report. 29 p.

<http://www.nashp.org/files/RetailClinics.pdf>

Issue Brief. 17 p.

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/RetailClinicsSixStateApproaches.pdf>

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For the Record: EHR Adoption in the Safety Net. By Julie Murchinson, Manatt Health Solutions, and others. Prepared for the California HealthCare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) February 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/EHRAdoption.pdf>

["Like most traditional medical practices, safety-net clinics are increasingly motivated to adopt an electronic health record (EHR) to improve the quality and efficiency of care. However, clinics that take this route typically face more hurdles than traditional practices do.... To get a better sense of the special EHR challenges that safety-net clinics encounter and what some have done to surmount them, this report closely examines three clinics in California. While previous reports have focused largely on identifying general barriers, this report aims to provide a more detailed account of unique as well as commonplace implementation experiences that would be instructive for other clinics."]

[Request #S09-9-3371]

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NURSES

The Health of California's School Children: A Case of State Malpractice. By Shelly Ann Kamei, Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law. (The Institute, San Diego, California) February 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: http://www.caichildlaw.org/Misc/SchoolNurseReport_Web.pdf

["While schools are not ideally the 'medical home' for children, and while access to pediatric care is the paramount part of health assurance, the school nurse is an important element for public health, basic administration, and detection for referral to physicians and hospitals. In terms of the school nurse element of child health care, California lags behind the rest of the nation.... Few California schools meet the recommended ratio of one nurse to every seven-hundred-fifty mainstreamed students.. Given the pressure on school districts and the low priority generally given to student healthcare services, a state-mandated solution is necessary."]

[Request #S09-9-3450]

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NURSING HOMES

Inside California's Nursing Homes: A Primer for Evaluating the Quality of Care in Today's Nursing Home. By Michelle Baass, California Senate Office of Research. (The Office, Sacramento, California) February 2009. 45 p.

Full text at: [Inside California's Nursing Homes](#)

["Nursing homes play an important role in California's health care system, providing care to about 100,000 people -- primarily the elderly and people with disabilities -- who are temporarily or permanently unable to care for themselves but who do not require acute care. In 2004 the California Legislature passed the Medi-Cal Long Term Care Reimbursement Act of 2004 with the intent of improving the quality of care provided in the state's nursing homes.... This report provides background information on nursing homes and California Assembly Bill 1629, including stakeholder perspectives and recommendations."]

[Request #S09-9-3425]

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HUMAN SERVICES

FOSTER CARE

Helping Former Foster Youth Graduate from College: Campus Support Programs in California and Washington State. By Amy Dworsky and Alfred Pérez, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. (The Hall, Chicago, Illinois) 2009. 77 p.

Full text at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1483&L2=60&L3=125

["Campus support programs provide financial, academic, and other types of supports to help former foster youth succeed in college. However, relatively little is known about the impact of these programs on college retention or graduation rates. This study lays the groundwork for an impact evaluation by examining program implementation from two different perspectives. The survey included questions about students' demographic characteristics, referral and recruitment, the application process, reasons for participating in the program, services and supports received, unmet needs, contact with staff, and recommendations for improvement. The report concludes with several recommendations for moving forward with a methodologically sound impact evaluation of campus support programs for former foster youth."]

[Request #S09-9-3464]

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HOMELESS

America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness. By the National Center on Family Homelessness. (The Center, Newton, Massachusetts) 2009.

["One of every 50 American children experiences homelessness. Most states have inadequate plans to address the worsening and often-overlooked problem. The problem is worse now because of the foreclosures and job losses of the deepening recession.... Louisiana had the most homeless children per capita in 2006, followed by Texas and California. The report offered 19 recommendations for government action, including beefed-up federal spending on low-income housing, assistance to struggling renters and homeowners, and investment in child care for homeless children. It urged states to place homeless families directly into permanent housing rather than into motels." Associated Press (March 10, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-9-3452]

Report. 220 p.

http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/rc_full_report.pdf

Executive Summary. 3 p.

<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/execsummary.pdf>

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LOW INCOME

Residential Segregation and Low-Income Working Families. By Margery Austin Turner and Karina Fortuny, The Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2009. 40 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411845_residential_segregation_liwf.pdf

["Historically, residential segregation constrained where minorities could live, contributing to disparities in education, employment, and wealth. Researchers interested in the well-being and future prospects of low-income working families have not yet explored how their residential patterns may vary across racial and ethnic lines or considered the implications of these patterns. This paper explores differences in neighborhood characteristics among white, black, and Hispanic low-income working families. The findings suggest that policies aimed at reducing the persistent disadvantages facing minority low-income working families need to address the ways the neighborhoods in which minorities live may be compounding these disadvantages."]

[Request #S09-9-3447]

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PARENTS

Developmental and Economic Effects of Parenting Programs for Expectant Parents and Parents of Preschool-age Children. By Sharon M. McGroder and Allison Hyra, Partnership for America's Economic Success. (The Partnership, Washington, DC) February 2009. 70 p.

Full text at:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject_mcgroder_200903_paper.pdf

["Despite research suggesting parents' primary influence on children, and mounting evidence suggesting that parenting education programs hold promise for improving parenting and child outcomes, it is unclear which parenting education programs are reliably and sufficiently effective -- and cost-effective -- to warrant large-scale replication. In addition, despite the fact that an estimated 50,000 parenting education programs reach millions of parents and caregivers every day, there remain communities in the U.S. that do not have the resources to provide parenting education programs. This reality prompted PAES to ask: If we made sufficient investments in effective parenting education programs, what might be the economic benefits to society?"]

[Request #S09-9-3475]

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