



For Affordable Health Care.

ICYMI: California Black Chamber President Jay King Calls for Legislature to Oppose Costly Health Care Mandates in Sacramento Bee Opinion Editorial

March 20, 2026 - With Californians clamoring for relief from high prices and businesses facing rising costs on all fronts, California Black Chamber of Commerce President Jay King has called for legislators to heed calls for affordability by suspending “any proposals for costly new health care mandates” in the [Sacramento Bee](#).

As businesses are absorbing rising costs, particularly for employee health care coverage, the [California Businesses for Affordable Health Care \(CABAH\)](#) coalition supports King’s call for legislators to oppose costly health care mandates to avoid higher health care costs on California businesses.

Excerpts from King’s Sacramento Bee Op-Ed, [California should pause new health coverage mandates amid rising costs](#), are below.

*“California lawmakers say they have made affordability a top priority. But it’s time to put that to the test. Businesses that provide health benefits are counting on leaders to match that commitment with action. **One clear way to do that is by suspending any proposals for costly new health care mandates.**”*

“In 2025 alone, California lawmakers introduced mandates totaling an estimated \$2.8 billion. That’s why last year, businesses and groups across the state, including chambers of commerce, local business organizations and small and mid-sized employers, came together to form a new coalition: California Businesses for Affordable Health Care (CABAH).”

*“This year, we’re taking our message a step further: We’re urging lawmakers to prioritize the ability of employers to **continue offering affordable, high-quality coverage by resisting the passage of any new, costly health care mandate bills.**”*

“Now is not the time to increase costs on hardworking Californians. Federal budget decisions are creating uncertainty around health care affordability, and employer-sponsored family premiums have already increased 26% over the past five years, largely driven by increased pharmaceutical and hospital costs, according to a [Kaiser Family Foundation study](#).”

“As a leader of a statewide chamber of commerce, I’m familiar with how my members and California businesses are navigating murky financial waters. For many employers, the impacts of legislative health care mandates on employer premiums are not marginal.”

Read the full story here: [California should pause new health insurance mandates amid rising costs](#)

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