

Impact

Spring 2023

A Pacific Research Institute Publication

THE GREAT PARENT REVOLT

Parents and Grassroots
Leaders Fighting Critical
Race Theory
in America's Schools

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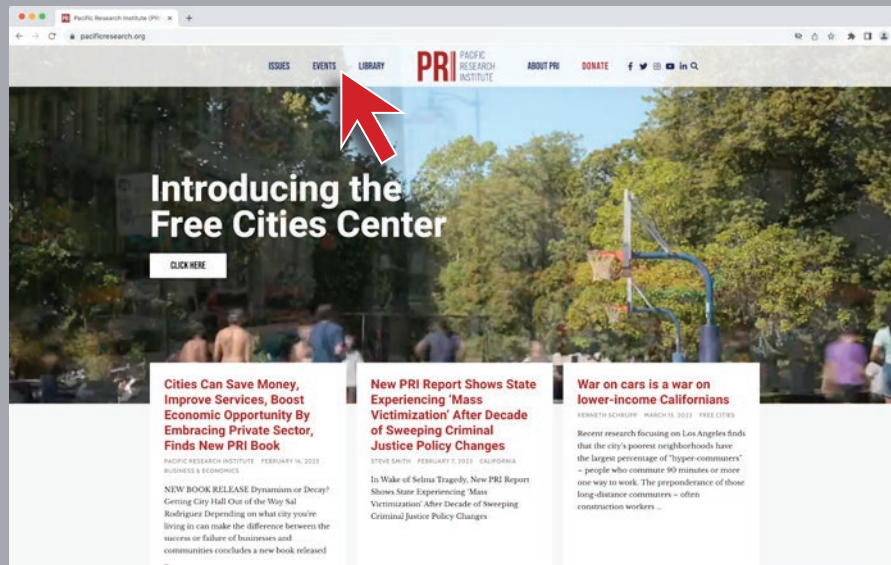
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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

There is a fight happening today in our schools—both public and private—as Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and critical race theory sweep the nation. Individuals and parents everywhere are standing up against the sweeping forces of thought conformity and political indoctrination in public schools.

This edition of *Impact* highlights stories of everyday people who are fighting CRT in their children's schools. Be sure to order PRI's latest book, *The Great Parent Revolt*, by Lance Izumi, Wenyuan Wu, and McKenzie Richards today to access policy tools and strategies to stop the spread of CRT.

CRT was one of many topics at PRI's recent School Board Training Conference in San Diego, the first that we have held in over 10 years. Over 50 school board members – many of them parents and concerned citizens who had been elected for the first time in November – joined us from across the state. You can read about the accomplishments of the event on page 7.

On pages 16-18, get an update on the work of our new Free Cities Center, which was recently showcased at our 5th Annual “California Ideas in Action” Sacramento Conference on February 15th. The conference explored how to bring about an urban comeback in California through the power of market-based ideas.

Also in this issue:

- Discover how, as reported by senior fellow Steve Smith in his new PRI study, the last decade of California crime data has revealed a “mass victimization” thanks to irresponsible policies such as Prop. 47, Prop. 57, and AB 109 that have made our streets more dangerous (Pages 8-9).
- Read my latest piece on how we can fix the doctor supply crunch, which is critical given that roughly 100 million Americans live in areas without enough primary care doctors (Pages 10-11).
- Despite billions of dollars spent on Governor Newsom's Project Homekey initiative to reduce homelessness, PRI's recent study by Wayne Winegarden and Kerry Jackson shows that California's homeless population has grown larger than ever before (Pages 14-15).

Our work to promote free-market ideas would not be possible without your generous support. Let us continue to partner together to improve the quality of life of all Americans and advance market-based solutions for generations to come.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally".

Sally C. Pipes
President, CEO, and
Thomas W. Smith Fellow
in Health Care Policy
Pacific Research Institute

THE CRITICAL RACE THEORY DEBATE IS TURNING PARENTS INTO UNLIKELY ACTIVISTS

By Lance Izumi
*Excerpt of op-ed
originally published in
the New York Post*

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is among the most divisive doctrines to ever threaten America's schoolchildren, and it has sparked an unprecedented grassroots uprising of parents whose stories of ideological resistance have been detailed in our new book *The Great Parent Revolt*.

A multidisciplinary education philosophy that places race at the center of American history and culture, CRT is akin to racial Marxism—with whites viewed as oppressors and non-whites framed as the oppressed. The philosophy is at the center

of high-profile intellectual efforts, such as *The New York Times'* controversial 1619 Project, which claims that slavery and anti-black racism are at the core of the entire American experience. In *The Great Parent Revolt*, we profile more than a dozen parents, students, and grassroots leaders who have courageously stood up and fought CRT.

One unlikely hero is Gabs Clark, a widowed low-income African-American mother of five children who had been living in a motel in Las Vegas.

Her high school-aged son, William, was in a local charter school which required a course called Sociology of Change. According to Clark, the course included an assignment that asked students “to list your identities, your race, your gender, your sexual orientation, your religion.”

William, who is mixed race with blonde hair and blue eyes, refused to complete the assignment and

was given a failing grade for the class, which kept him from graduating. According to Clark, because of his fair complexion, the class viewed her son as “a dirty filthy oppressor.”

Clark filed a federal lawsuit charging the school with violating William’s First Amendment free speech rights, Fourteenth Amendment equal protection rights, and federal anti-discrimination rights for compelling him to complete the race-based assignment. The case has since been settled out of court.

Parents, says Clark, must realize that it is up to them to challenge CRT’s impact on education as she did. “Just because you have these rights,” she said, “if you don’t fight for them, then it’s like you ain’t got them.”

William’s case is no anomaly. We interviewed a California student named Joshua, who asked that his real name not be divulged, who told us shocking stories of

the CRT-type exercises he has endured in the classroom.

As a seventh grader he had to participate in a so-called “privilege walk.” In this absurd exercise, the entire class formed a line as their teacher read out characteristics of privilege, such as “I am white” or “I am male;” students had to take a step forward if a characteristic applied to them.

Joshua said it felt like a criminal lineup with students “singled out for privileges that they really can’t help or control.”

Those personal details “shouldn’t be the concern of other students in my class and they aren’t entitled to that information,” said Joshua, who is white. He added that students and teachers are “scared about what they say for fear that they may mess up regarding one’s race or pronouns or identities.”

Lance Izumi is senior director of the Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute.

**BUY YOUR
COPY TODAY**

**Purchase
The Great Parent Revolt
at your favorite
online bookseller.**



**THE
GREAT
PARENT
REVOLT**

How Parents and Grassroots Leaders
Are Fighting Critical Race Theory
in America's Schools

by Lance Izumi, Wenyuan Wu, and McKenzie Richards

THE GREAT PARENT REVOLT

Exploring the instruction of critical race theory in public schools, PRI released *The Great Parent Revolt*, a new book that profiles ordinary people who have taken on the extraordinary task of defeating the most divisive doctrine to ever threaten America's children.

"This book tells the story of individual parents, students and school board members who are fighting the ideological indoctrination of critical race theory," write co-authors Lance Izumi, Wenyan Wu, and McKenzie Richards. "Almost none of them is an expert on political philosophy or social sciences but they are motivated by a common desire to stop a fringe and divisive dogma from preying on our society and its most fragile members: America's kids."

The Great Parent Revolt features interviews with parents, grandparents, educators, students and community leaders who have been impacted by the sweeping forces of thought conformity and political indoctrination in public schools.

The book also includes policy tools and strategies that frustrated parents and community members might employ in their local schools to stop the spread of critical race theory and classroom indoctrination.

***The Great Parent Revolt* is available now for purchase at your favorite online bookseller.**

WHO'S TALKING ABOUT THE GREAT PARENT REVOLT?

The Great Parent Revolt has become an Amazon.com bestseller, rising to #5 among education reform and policy books, and has been featured in numerous media outlets across the country including:



FOX & FRIENDS
 Book co-author Lance Izumi and Asra Nomani, one of the parents featured in the book, were interviewed by Ainsley Earhardt on "Fox and Friends" on the Fox News Channel. The show is seen by over 1 million viewers daily.



THE BEN SHAPIRO PODCAST
The Great Parent Revolt and Izumi's *New York Post* op-ed were mentioned by Ben Shapiro on his popular national radio show/Daily Wire podcast.



THE LARS LARSON SHOW
 Lance Izumi joined host Lars Larson to discuss *The Great Parent Revolt* and how parents can fight schools who want to feed CRT propaganda to their kids.

PRI'S 2022 SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

PRI relaunched its School Board Training Program this fall with the goal of providing school board members with the resources to ensure that students receive a high-quality education.

On November 30, PRI hosted 50 current and newly elected California school board members at our School Board Training Program conference in San Diego, California. The event was moderated by the senior director of PRI's Center for Education Lance Izumi. Panelists included Mari Barke, Trustee, Orange County Board of Education; Paul Keefer, President, Sacramento County Board of Education; Gary Davis, Vice President of Civic & Political Affairs, California Charter Schools Association; Chris Arend, Past President, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Board; Sandra Crandall, Trustee, Fountain Valley School District Board; and Barbara Hale, President, Riverside County Board of Education.

Board members had the opportunity to listen to panel topics that included:

1. How to be an effective school board member
2. Key policies that school boards should address, including fighting the woke classroom and Critical Race Theory
3. What school board members can do to improve student achievement

In addition to engaging in Q&A sessions with each of our eight esteemed panelists, and receiving copies of relevant PRI education books and studies, attendees were able to connect with likeminded board members and build new coalitions at a networking lunch and wine and cheese reception after the program.

PRI's next California School Board Member Conference will be held in November 2023 in San Francisco. We plan to expand the program this year to other states including Texas, Washington and Arizona.



School board members network at PRI's School Board Member Conference in San Diego.

IDEAS IN ACTION

Temecula School Board President Joseph Komrosky was inspired by what he learned at the Conference and Lance Izumi's new book, *The Great Parent Revolt*, to pass an anti-CRT resolution at his board's January 2023 meeting. He said, "Thank you and God bless you for all your efforts you've put forward to help us. The passage of the anti-CRT resolution was a victory and sent a strong message to parents, the district, and the community."

FALLEN SELMA OFFICER IS CALIFORNIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM'S LATEST VICTIM

By Steve Smith
*Excerpt of op-ed
 originally published in
 Bakersfield Californian*

California's murder victims numbered 2,361 in 2021, which is up from 1,794 when AB 109 was passed in 2011, or an increase of 31.6 percent.

The alleged murderer, Nathaniel Michael Dixon, according to *GV Wire*, has been arrested for trespassing, narcotics charges, a felon in possession of a dirk or dagger, second degree robbery, and auto theft since 2019. In July 2020, he received a sentence of three years' probation.

In August 2020, he was rearrested on two separate occasions for additional gun and drug charges. In March 2022, he pleaded "no-contest" to possession of a controlled substance while armed with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon, for which he was sentenced to 5 years and 4 months in State Prison.

On September 22, 2022, just six months into his sentence, he was released under Governor Newsom's rules to a term of three years of "community supervision". Barely a month later, he was rearrested for failure to meet with his probation officer. Three weeks later, he was again set free on probation.

It would take him just 10 weeks to obtain another firearm, and allegedly shoot and kill Officer Carrasco.

Officer Carrasco marks the 100th law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty since 2011, and will unfortunately soon join those remembered at the California Peace Officer's Memorial in Sacramento.

If Newsom is serious about ensuring Carrasco's valor is not

soon forgotten, he should start by reforming or repealing those reckless policies from Sacramento that tragically made victims out of Officer Carrasco and countless others.

Steve Smith, a 30-year veteran of law enforcement and former Gavilan College administration of justice instructor, is a senior fellow in urban studies at the Pacific Research Institute.

Download a copy of the study
 at www.pacificresearch.org



CRIMES THAT HAVE INCREASED

2011	2021	INCREASE
1,794 HOMICIDES	2,361 HOMICIDES	↑ 31.6%
91,483 REPORTED AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	123,122 REPORTED AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	↑ 34.6%
4,180 FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES	NEARLY 10,000 FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES	↑ 715%

SOME REPORTED CRIMES HAVE DECREASED

2011 230,334 REPORTED BURGLARIES	2021 136,275 REPORTED BURGLARIES	A POSSIBLE REASON FOR THIS DROP IS ENTERING A RETAIL BUSINESS WITH THE INTENT TO SHOPLIFT IS NO LONGER DEFINED AS A BURGLARY.
2011 597,302 REPORTED LARCENIES (THEFTS)	2021 541,368 REPORTED LARCENIES (THEFTS)	THERE MAY BE TWO REASONS FOR THIS, DECLINING REPORTING AND HIGHER VALUE THEFTS.



HOW TO FIX THE DOCTOR SUPPLY CRUNCH

By Sally C. Pipes
Excerpt of op-ed
originally published in
Richmond Times-Dispatch

R

Roughly 100 million Americans live in areas without enough primary care doctors. Nationwide, we're short about 17,000 of them right now. By 2034, that number could jump to 48,000, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

To meet our country's growing demand for care, we need to increase the supply of clinicians who can provide it. But that doesn't mean just training more doctors. In fact, nurse practitioners and physician assistants could be delivering much more primary care but are prevented from doing so by government rules. We need to strip away this red tape that keeps patients underserved.

Nurse practitioners, for example, are highly trained. They typically hold

master's degrees and sometimes doctorates, as well as specialist training. They're qualified to diagnose and treat patients, including prescribing medication.

Physician assistants, meanwhile, hold master's degrees and are trained in general medicine. They likewise can diagnose and treat.

But in many cases, state-based "scope-of-practice" laws tie these professionals' hands.

Twenty-four states limit or restrict the ability of nurse practitioners to engage in at least one aspect of practice for which they're qualified, such as prescribing certain types of medication or seeing patients without physician oversight. Similar restrictions exist for physician assistants.

And yet, there appears to be little to no medical or scientific basis for these rules. A study by researchers at Brandeis found that state regulations restricting nurse practitioners' scope of practice did not improve quality of care. Participants in one survey of community clinics even reported higher satisfaction with nurse practitioners than with physicians.

Numerous studies show that physician assistants deliver the same or better patient outcomes as physicians.

Patients don't benefit from scope-of-practice laws, nor do they seem

to like them. More than three-fourths of Americans support "expanded capabilities" for nurse practitioners, according to a recent Morning Consult poll.

In short, these laws squeeze the supply of care for no reason. Allowing nurse practitioners to work without restriction would reduce the number of Americans living in counties with primary-care shortages from 44 million to fewer than 13 million — a drop of 70% — according to a report by UnitedHealth Group.

Fortunately, Congress is considering bipartisan legislation that would remove barriers in the Medicare and Medicaid systems that prevent nurse practitioners and other advanced-practice registered nurses from practicing to the full extent of their training.

We need similar rollbacks that apply to the private market and at the state level.

There are other ways legislators can increase the supply of care — and thereby expand access to it. During the pandemic, Congress lifted restrictions on telehealth, allowing many more patients to see providers by phone or video chat. More than eight in 10 voters with employer-provided coverage would now like to see those telehealth flexibilities extended, according to another survey by Morning Consult.

Lawmakers should also consider relaxing restrictions on physicians educated abroad. Doctors with degrees from international medical schools provide excellent care, the data show. In fact, according to a recent BMJ study, Medicare patients treated by international medical graduates had lower mortality rates than patients treated by U.S. medical school graduates.

Too often physicians trained in other countries must jump through hoops to practice in the United States. Many international medical graduates have to complete an accredited residency training program in the United States or Canada even after practicing unencumbered elsewhere. Relicensing procedures can take four to five years.

Hurdles like these leave talent untapped. An estimated 270,000 immigrants with medical or health degrees are underemployed or unemployed in the United States, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

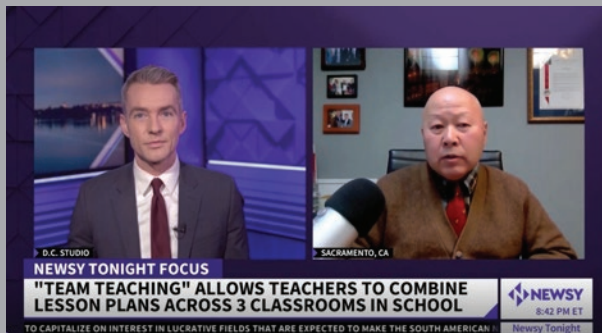
With our growing and aging population, there's no way demand for health care services is going to shrink. That means we have to find ways to increase supply. Measures that deregulate the health care labor market would be a step in the right direction.

Sally Pipes continues her work educating the American people about the dangers of single-payer health care. Read her latest columns on single-payer at www.pacificresearch.org/category/single-payer/

PRI SCHOLARS TAKE TO THE AIRWAVES



Sally Pipes discussed prescription drugs and the Inflation Reduction Act on "The Balance" with Eric Bolling on Newsmax TV.



Lance Izumi discussed a new concept, "team teaching," that is catching fire in Arizona and other states on national cable news channel Newsy.



Wayne Winegarden shares the findings of PRI's study on Project Homekey on Spectrum News 1 (Wisconsin).



Wayne Winegarden looked at the impact the Inflation Reduction Act is having on the state of Ohio on NBC 4 in Columbus, OH.



Lance Izumi discusses PRI's Congress To-Do List on education reform on The Chat, KFDA-TV in Amarillo, TX.

CALIFORNIA SITS IN THE BOTTOM 10 OF PRI'S 50-STATE INDEX OF CHARITY REGULATIONS

Read the full study at www.philanthropyroundtable.org

While there is a need for regulations on the charitable sector to foster accountability and trust in charities, excessive levels of regulation impose a burden on charities that outweighs the benefit of the regulation. PRI's Wayne Winegarden partnered with Philanthropy Roundtable to release a new study examining the impact of overregulation on the charitable sector.

In his research, Winegarden found that a growing regulatory burden expands the divide between the value of the resources dedicated toward charitable efforts and the amount of public benefit these organizations can provide.

Why does this issue of overregulation matter? The vast majority of charities are small. Nearly 90% of these groups spend less than \$500,000 a year advancing their altruistic missions and goals. And every dollar a charity must spend to meet regulatory obligations is a dollar that cannot go to help those in need. This means fewer resources for your local food bank or homeless shelter, fewer students helped by after-school programs, and instead, more money for lawyers and accountants.

When a small charity is faced with a \$20,000 annual independent audit, for

example, or subjected to the state's sales tax, the costs of complying with excessive regulatory burdens could be the difference between existence and failure.

PRI and Philanthropy Roundtable hope that this study can influence states to learn from each other and consider the benefits from streamlining their state regulations and eliminating unnecessary burdens as a means for promoting a more efficient and effective charitable sector.

TOP STATES BY CHARITABLE REGULATORY BURDEN	
Top Five (Lightest Burden)	Overall Ranking
Montana	1
Wyoming	2
Nebraska	3
Delaware	4
Idaho	5
BOTTOM STATES BY CHARITABLE REGULATORY BURDEN	
Bottom Five (Heaviest Burden)	Overall Ranking
Connecticut	46
Mississippi	47
New Jersey	48
Florida	49
Pennsylvania	50

PROJECT HOMEKEY IS EXPENSIVE AND INEFFECTIVE. LET'S SHIFT TO MUCH MORE PROMISING POLICIES.

By Kerry Jackson & Wayne Winegarden
Excerpt of op-ed originally published in *San Diego Union-Tribune*

San Diego officials announced that the county and city will be receiving nearly \$12 million in state Project Homekey funds to build housing for the homeless. It's a publicly funded program that will, no doubt, be celebrated in the halls of government as a great step forward. For all its promise, though, Project Homekey is an expensive and ineffective program for addressing San Diego's homeless crisis.

The Homekey funds are to be used to build 41 new housing units and provide necessary support services, for the chronically homeless. Called PATH Villas El Cerrito, the project will be, says the *Times of San Diego*,

a "partnership between PATH Ventures, Family Health Centers of San Diego and Bold Communities." Adding in \$11 million in county funding to support the project, the PATH Villas project would come in at a cost of over \$560,000 per housing unit.

While Project Homekey, and its predecessor Project Roomkey, are backed by the best of intentions, their inability to produce as promised exemplifies government's inability to efficiently handle the problem.

California has spent billions on Project Homekey hoping that it will successfully tackle California's homelessness crisis. We

looked at the program earlier this year and found that it's not living up to the hype.

Homekey, and Roomkey before it, are essentially extensions of the housing first approach that has been in effect in California since 2016. The results show that it is not an effective strategy for resolving the complicated problems of addiction and mental illness that are important drivers of the crisis.

In 2014, state homelessness was around 114,000. It spiked to more than 161,000 in 2020 even as homelessness in all other states fell, growing sharply since 2018, two years after housing first be-

came official policy through Senate Bill 1380. From 2018 to 2021, the state's sheltered homeless population grew from about 42,000 to more than 51,000.

More recent figures indicate that the total number of homeless continued to grow in San Diego from 2020 to 2022 and other counties that have recently self-reported their data. The sheltered homeless grew 18 percent in San Diego, the unsheltered 3 percent.

So what should be done? We suggest lawmakers stop looking at the governments they run as the solution. Millions using their ingenuity and innovative genius have produced better results than a few hundred in Sacramento who are essentially stuck in a policy rut.

While San Diego's Homekey moves to its next step, there are homeless already being well cared for, and their self-sufficiency restored, by private-sector institutions, such as Father Joe's Villages on E Street. Father Joe's has been

servicing the homeless, with great success, for more than 70 years, providing showers, hot meals, laundry services, even child care. More importantly, Father Joe's has a record of positive results in working with the addicted, the mentally ill, the sick, and the jobless that Homekey is ever unlikely to match.

And to its credit, it has done so with mostly private dollars freely given by those who have seen its accomplishments and believe in its mission.

Despite billions of dollars spent on Governor Newsom's Project Homekey program to combat homelessness, Wayne Winegarden and Kerry Jackson found that California's homeless population is larger than ever in the latest PRI study, "Project Homekey Provides No Way Home for California's Homeless." Download a copy at www.pacificresearch.org.

IMPROVE CITY SERVICES AND SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY WITH PRIVATIZATION

By Sal Rodriguez
*Excerpt of op-ed
originally published in
Orange County Register*

W

What is the purpose of city government?

If you're an ordinary person, you might figure something like the establishing of certain types of rules (mainly around business and building) and the providing of certain types of services (from parks to policing).

City residents, business owners, developers and visitors pay taxes with which we generally expect whoever it is in City Hall to responsibly use to carry out the aforementioned tasks.

The rule-making, administrative ordinance-passing side of city government is one thing. The providing of services is another.

Ostensibly, the goal of municipal service-delivery is to provide services the taxpaying public wants and needs, effective, efficiently and at a reasonable cost.

It shouldn't matter, in theory, if a city can do this with in-house employees or if they contract out to a private company to do the work or if they don't get involved at all and let private citizens work things out, right?

Services are services.

But what if, say, government employees with an incentive to keep things in-house no matter what

were to band together, pool their money together and ensure the people with the power to decide how services are delivered and by whom are on their side and won't do anything contrary to the interests of government employees? That would be crazy right, almost corrupt?

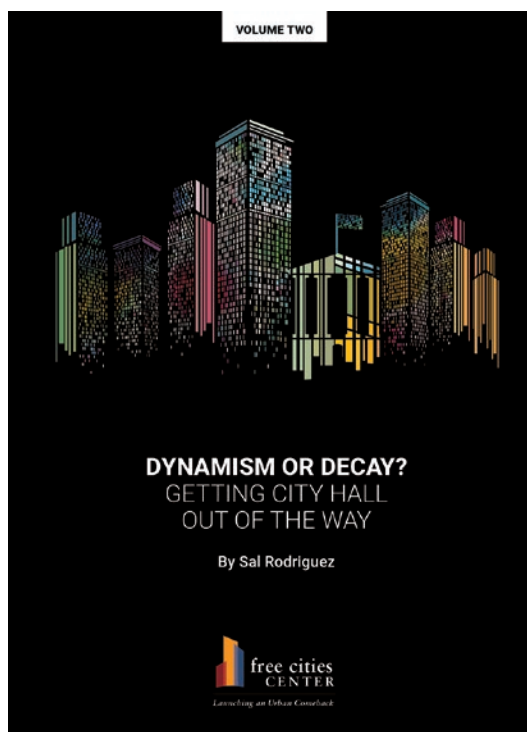
Right?

Well, that's essentially the status quo in cities across the state. And the consequences are real.

Besides the higher costs city taxpayers pay for lesser service, there's the ongoing problem of

pension crowd-out, which is when the rising cost of covering the cost of city workers' pensions crowds-out money that could've otherwise gone to city services. [...]

It's time for the public to realize that for all the money they pay to city governments, they can usually get more bang for their buck. The key is a willingness on the part of city leaders to put the interests of the taxpaying public first and ensure all city operations are done as efficiently and effectively as possible, even if it takes outsourcing to the private sector to do it.



Read more in the new Free Cities Center book by Sal Rodriguez, ***Dynamism or Decay? Getting City Hall Out Of The Way***

The book shows that when city hall gets out of the way, California cities thrive, and prosperity returns to residents and businesses.

“From big businesses looking for an edge over competitors to unions looking to capitalize on government monopolies, it usually doesn't take much for a city to head in the wrong direction. What cities ought to do is establish basic, coherent rules, focus on their competencies, contract out services that can be done as well or better for lower costs than they can, and leave the rest to free people to sort out for themselves.”

—Sal Rodriguez, PRI senior fellow, opinion editor for the Southern California News Group, and the book's author

To learn more about PRI's Free Cities Center and download a copy of the book, visit www.pacificresearch.org/issues/free-cities/

ANNUAL SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE EXPLORES HOW TO LAUNCH AN URBAN COMEBACK

This year's PRI "California Ideas in Action" conference explored how to bring about an urban comeback in California through the power of free market ideas.

Speaking before a capacity crowd in Sacramento, Free Cities Center director Steven Greenhut moderated a half-day discussion on the real-life challenges facing urban California, and what can be done to improve our cities so residents will feel safe and want to plant roots there, rather than flee.

Keith Knopf, president and CEO of The Raley's Companies, was the conference keynote speaker and shared with the audience the challenges faced by the iconic California company. Illustrating the impact that Prop. 47 and other sweeping public safety policy changes have had on the retail sector, Knopf said that his company loses around \$60 million annually to retail theft.

Attendees heard from a variety of esteemed panelists who spoke about solutions for improving the plight of the West Coast's cities: PRI Chief Operating Officer Rowena Itchon, Georgia-based developer and author of the book *Blighted* Margaret "Marjy" Stagmeier, Salinas City Councilmember Steve McShane, PRI's Sally Pipes, Lance Izumi, Sal Rodriguez and Steve Smith, Former Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait, and PRI board member and chair of PRI's California Reform committee the Hon. Dan Kolkey.

Michael Shellenberger, national bestselling author of *San Fransicko*, gave the conference closing remarks. He discussed how bad policies enacted by progressive lawmakers in Sacramento were contributing to urban decay and increasing the state's drug and crime problems.

To watch the videos from this year's PRI California Ideas in Action conference, visit PRI's Youtube page at www.youtube.com/PacificResearch1.



Top: Chelsea Minor of The Raley's Companies; Keith Knopf, president and CEO of The Raley's Companies. PRI President Sally Pipes, and Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Tim Anaya. Bottom: Michael Shellenberger gives closing remarks at the Sacramento conference.

PRI WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EXCELLENCE AWARD AND SALLY PIPES CELEBRATED FOR HEALTHCARE POLICY WORK

The State Policy Network (SPN) Communications Excellence Awards recognize and encourage outstanding achievements in marketing, communications, and media across the state think tank network.

SPN awarded PRI's team with a Communications Excellence Award for receiving a "bold brand boost" at the SPN national conference in Atlanta, GA. The team won the award for its efforts promoting two major items in our policy agenda – showing how market-based reforms can expand school choice options (through Lance Izumi's book *The Homeschool Boom*), and how reforming state environmental regulations could remove roadblocks adding time and expense to housing, school, infrastructure and climate change projects (through *The CEQA Gauntlet* study).

SPN's criteria for the award is creating a powerful brand that means your organization has a seat at the policy-making table, citizens look to your organization for information and guidance on important policy issues, and lawmakers and media see you as a trusted resource for quality research and information.

PRI's Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Tim Anaya, accepted the award in Atlanta, GA on behalf of the PRI Communications Team.

PRI President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy Sally C. Pipes was also celebrated by SPN for being a prestigious Bob Williams Award finalist for securing the year's "biggest win." The Bob Williams Awards for Outstanding Policy Achievement celebrate state think tanks doing exceptional work to develop and



PRI Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tim Anaya with Meredith Turney of State Policy Network

disseminate credible policy research and ideas that can help states implement free-market solutions that will have national impact.

Pipes was recognized for her leadership in helping to defeat a push by liberal activists in California to ban private health insurance and impose a new "Medicare for All" style scheme in Assembly Bill 1400. She led PRI's team in spearheading an aggressive messaging and outreach campaign spreading the word about the dangers of Medicare for All. Through op-eds, media interviews, speeches, and meetings with lawmakers, Pipes educated Californians what a single-payer health care scheme would mean for them – and legislators listened!

PRI is appreciative of this national recognition and will continue our hard work to promote and implement free-market policy solutions and create lasting change in California and the nation.

ON HEALTH CARE, ENERGY, AND EDUCATION, A TO-DO LIST FOR THE NEW CONGRESS

By Tim Anaya

*Excerpt of blog post originally published
in Right by the Bay*

Recent public opinion surveys highlight the policy priorities that voters have for the new Congress:

90 percent of those surveyed in a July Kaiser Family Foundation health tracking poll said health care costs, including prescription drug costs, were a very or somewhat important issue upon which they would decide their vote.

According to the most recent tracking survey of education issues conducted by Edchoice and Morning Consult, just 30 percent of voters said K-12 education policies were on the right track at the national level.

In the latest Monmouth University national issues survey, 57 percent of voters surveyed said energy and transportation infrastructure was an important issue area for the federal government to address, while 49 percent rated climate change as important.

If newly-elected or re-elected Members of Congress want to show their voters that “they get it” on the messages voters send them in the election, a good place to start would be reading PRI’s “Congress To-Do List” and embracing market-based reforms that are overwhelmingly supported by the American people.

To help the new Congress meet the moment, PRI has released the “Congress To-Do List” – actionable market-based reform proposals that have the potential to achieve bipartisan consensus and address the issues the American people say are among their top priorities for their representatives.

Healthcare To-Do's for Congress



▶ ENCOURAGE INNOVATION

Expand telehealth services which started during the pandemic. Telehealth visits have proved to lower costs and expand access and should be made permanent.



▶ EXPAND ACCESS

Expand scope of practice laws so that nurse practitioners and physician assistants can do more testing of patients without having to have a medical doctor present.



▶ LOWER TAXES

Expand Health Savings Accounts that allow patients to be in charge of their health care dollars through tax-advantaged accounts.

Energy To-Do's for Congress



▶ EXPAND AMERICAN OIL PRODUCTION

Reinstate the suspended licenses for drilling in ANWR and expand leasing for oil drilling on federal lands.



▶ STREAMLINE REGULATIONS

Reflect the low risk generated by nuclear facilities by streamlining regulations for the development of nuclear energy.



▶ ENERGY SUBSIDIES

Enact income eligibility standards for subsidies on electric vehicles to under \$75,000 annual household incomes.

Education To-Do's for Congress



▶ SCHOOL CHOICE

Increase the size of the federal Charter School Program to match the increase in families choosing charter schools over poorly performing public schools. Backpack future funding to children and allow parents to choose the education that best suits the needs of their children.



▶ ACCOUNTABILITY / TRANSPARENCY

Make government education funding more transparent. Require the federal database USASpending.gov clearly explain the purpose and impact of federal education spending.

CLIMATE DISCLOSURE BILL WOULD RAISE COSTS ON CALIFORNIANS, WON'T INCREASE CLIMATE ACTION

By Wayne Winegarden
Excerpt of Op-Ed originally published in CalMatters

Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco reintroduced legislation that would require companies with revenues exceeding \$1 billion to disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Sen. Wiener frames his proposal as a transparency issue. It's not, of course. If enacted, his proposal would worsen the state's business climate and increase costs on Californians.

He says of Senate Bill 253 that it is about "making sure our state and business community are putting our money where all of our mouths are, which is in a direction of climate action."

At first glance, this logic appears reasonable. Global climate change is a problem and greater transparency seems to provide important benefits. It helps investors better understand any potential litigation risks and customers better understand the impact on emissions from their consumption choices.

Dig deeper, it becomes clear that the legislation promotes misinformation, not transparency. Including the large financial costs, the bill is a net negative for Californians.

If enacted into law, companies must provide detailed carbon accounting reports

that include emissions from their direct operations, their electricity purchased, and the emissions generated by the company's supply chain and indirect activities.

Unlike financial reports that are based on a rigorous and widely accepted methodology, carbon accounting reports are neither precise nor accurate. The further away from a company's direct operations, the more inaccurate the carbon accounting exercise becomes. How does a company know which power generator provided the electricity they used? More troubling, how can they possibly know the emissions of distant suppliers?

DIG DEEPER, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE LEGISLATION PROMOTES MISINFORMATION, NOT TRANSPARENCY.

The answer is, they can't. Consequently, companies will rely on proxy information that is just as likely to provide misinformation as information.

Comparing the emissions across companies will also be problematic. Differences could be due to actual emissions, but could also result from measurement assumptions.

Then there are the problems of double counting emission reductions, where multiple organizations take credit for the same emissions reduction, which is another inherent problem of carbon accounting.

While the reports will provide information of dubious value, conducting the carbon accounting audits will be costly.

The legislation requires companies to devote additional financial resources to comply with the new mandates, which will add to their costs. Like any cost increase, California consumers will bear these costs, in whole or part. Therefore, the mandates will add to the affordability problems that too many California families are already struggling to overcome.

The costs from the proposal will increase over time because fundamental business considerations such as choosing the supplier that produces the right inputs, at the right price, that meet the necessary delivery schedule, will be deemphasized. By disincentivizing the creation of the most efficient supply chain possible, the mandate will have harmful impacts on corporate costs. Once again, these costs will be

passed onto consumers through higher costs.

The mandate is also troubling because there are better policy options. The costs of global climate change can be addressed without making California's families poorer if policies focus on incentivizing the necessary technological innovations rather than imposing higher costs on families already struggling to make ends meet.

There are many exciting innovations in development that include next generation nuclear plants, enhanced battery storage, carbon capture and storage processes, technologies that significantly improve fuel efficiency, and the development of hydrogen and alternative power sources.

Whether any, or several, of these technologies will ultimately pan out is unknown. Continued investment into these (and other lesser-known innovations) is necessary to encourage the emergence of the next-generation energy sources. Policies that focus on reducing the cost of innovation through tax and depreciation preferences are better positioned to harness the private sector's innovation to cost-effectively reduce GHG emissions.

A policy that provides no benefits but increases costs on families and businesses imposes net costs on Californians. In the last legislative session, the Assembly justifiably rejected the prior version of the bill. For the sake of California's families, let's hope they do so again this year.

DESPITE RECENT RAINS AND RECORD SNOWPACK, CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT IS FAR FROM OVER

By Pam Lewison
Excerpt of blog post
originally published in
Right by the Bay

The Department of Water Resources announced an increase in allocations from five percent to 30 percent of requested water. For agriculture, the increased allocations mean approximately 10 million acre feet of water for the nearly 10 million acres of irrigated farmland in the state or enough water to cover every acre of irrigated farmland with one foot of water if applied at once.

However, drought is more complex than surface water levels with considerations needed for groundwater and soil moisture. Overall, the state has received an average of nearly 12 inches of rain in the last three weeks. So, allocations could be reduced again depending upon how the spring progresses.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the best medicine for drought is several soaking rains over a long period of time. A single rainfall can start the repair process but most of the benefit is like putting makeup on – only a surface fix. To truly end a drought, long-term moisture is key.

A combination of intermittent rains that allow water to soak into the soil and a slow snow melt to continue facilitating the groundwater recharge are the real keys to ending a drought.

The Sierra statewide snowpack was 240 percent of normal on Jan. 20 and the South Sierra snowpack

was 283 percent of normal on the same day. The record snowfall, if the melt is slow and steady, will certainly help to alleviate the drought.

The U.S. Drought monitor showed a significant improvement in overall statewide drought measurements in its most recent report. No areas of the state were reported in the extreme or exceptional drought categories and a small portion of Del Norte County was reported as having no signs of drought.

The next key for the state to take advantage of the rain and snowfall this year is to expand and improve the reservoir system. Water storage in dry regions is the difference between success and failure.

The water woes of the state have created a contraction of the agricultural business community which represents \$51.1 billion in income for the state. To recapture some of what was lost, providing surface and groundwater solutions to take advantage of the current influx of moisture is the best means by which to do so.

While the drought is far from over, the current conditions are a good start to getting California's farmers back on track to successfully irrigate the fruits and vegetables for which they are known.



ARE YOU LISTENING TO PRI'S NEXT ROUND PODCAST?

Improving Low-Income Communities with Marjy Stagmeier

Rowena and Tim talked with Marjy Stagmeier, a successful Georgia developer and author of the new book *Blighted: A Story of People, Politics, and an American Housing*. Marjy describes her own remarkable efforts in transforming an urban community of crime and despair into one where families could thrive, schools improve, and streets become safer for all. The book should sound a wake-up call to all those who previously thought rehabilitation of marginalized apartment communities was unachievable.



Letters to a Future Champion with Dottie Pepper

In a special episode, Rowena and Tim talked with golfing legend Dottie Pepper. Her book, *Letters to A Future Champion – My Time with Mr. Pulver*, caught Tim's eye and he made it his book recommendation for last year's Holiday Book guide. They chat with Dottie about her book, which is a tribute to her mentor Mr. Pulver and the life lessons he taught Dottie. They also talk a little public

policy – what she thinks about California's heavy taxation on athletes and all California residents, and the issue of name, image, and likeness rights for college athletes.

President Biden's State of the Union Address with PRI's All-Star Speechwriters

Our all-star cast of former speechwriters reviewed the President's State of the Union Address. Lance Izumi, senior director of Education, was director of Gov. Deukmejian's speechwriting team and was also a speechwriter for former Attorney General Edwin Meese; Tim Anaya, vice president of marketing and communications, was one of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's speechwriters and also wrote speeches for senior California legislators; and Rowena Itchon, COO, was a speechwriter for Gov. Pete Wilson and a researcher in President Reagan's speechwriting office.

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Apple Podcasts, iHeart, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn and Amazon.

PHOTOS FROM RECENT PRI VIRTUAL AND LIVE EVENTS



Former education secretary Betsy DeVos discusses her book *Hostages No More* on a PRI webinar moderated by Lance Izumi.



Bestselling author and China expert Gordon Chang discusses the growing threat from China at a PRI luncheon in Newport Beach.



Bestselling author, former State Department official, and national & foreign policy scholar Dr. Kiron Skinner discusses the current and future threats to U.S. national security at a December PRI dinner in Beverly Hills.



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Bestselling author and Manhattan Institute senior fellow Heather Mac Donald discusses crime and homelessness in the Golden State at an August PRI luncheon in Newport Beach.



PRI chief operating officer Rowena Itchon welcomes guests to a November PRI luncheon with Steve Hilton in Newport Beach.



PRI hosts Peter Thiel for the annual Sir Antony Fisher gala in Palo Alto.



PRI President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy Sally C. Pipes discusses health care at the recent Reason Weekend event.



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