

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 319
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 277-1220
FAX (408) 277-1036

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Kalra@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



ASH KALRA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

August 31, 2020

San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Item 3.8 – Health and Equity Task Force Recommendations.

Dear San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

I respectfully ask for your support of Councilmember Carrasco's memorandum and the Health and Equity Task Force recommendations. As the State Assemblymember representing East San Jose, I have been concerned by the disproportionately high rate of COVID-19 infection in our communities of colors, especially in our low-income Latino neighborhoods. A majority of the zip codes with the highest rates of infection fall in East San Jose, and we cannot turn a blind eye and assume it is a coincidence.

Limited access to affordable health care coupled with the affordable housing crisis and need of essential workers during the pandemic has dealt an unfair hand to our Latino community as they continue to serve on the frontline without proper PPE's, testing supplies, and education. I am glad that Councilmember Carrasco has taken the lead in forming the Health and Equity Task Force comprised of community leaders, healthcare and labor advocates, and elected officials alike to address the need to reduce infection rates in our communities of color. The Task Force has released five recommendations.

These recommendations include:

- 1) Ensuring adequate access to testing for priority communities most impacted by COVID-19 and sufficient PPE and testing supplies to support testing entities, including community health centers.
- 2) Working closely with the community health centers in accessing affordable laboratory services for speedy and timely COVID-19 specimen processing results.
- 3) Creating a system of communication with patients that is clear, consistent, and actionable to increase patient compliance and participation with contact tracing and treatment.
- 4) Continuing and expanding reporting on the Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard to reflect data associated with those communities most impacted by COVID-19.
- 5) Establishing clear, consistent and actionable messaging across health systems, both public and private, regarding testing protocols and access to tests for asymptomatic people.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 319
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 277-1220
FAX (408) 277-1036

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Kalra@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



ASH KALRA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

In addition, I am grateful for my colleague, Assemblymember Kansen Chu, and his involvement with the Health and Equity Task Force. Assemblymember Chu has taken the initiative to ensure the State Legislature is aware of the Task Force recommendations by sending a letter to both Governor Newsom and our Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting to support the Task Force recommendations. I look forward to working together on all levels of government, and with our community partners and advocates, to ensure we target the disproportionate rates in our communities of color, especially our Latino community, by addressing the socio-economic and healthcare disparities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra".

ASH KALRA