

STAFF EDITORIAL

Improving emergency response policies will save lives

A medical emergency recently occurred on campus, accentuating the need to improve our emergency response policies.

Thanks to the quick reaction from administrators, students and staff, the medical emergency was resolved, and the staff member was transported to the hospital.

While we applaud the HHS community for their efforts in mitigating this unprecedented situation, there are a number of policies we can implement to better prepare ourselves to respond to these types of emergency situations in the future.

Currently, all administrators and district office managers are trained once every two years to handle various medical emergencies, principal Greg Giglio said.

Trainers teach these staff members how to administer CPR, how to operate an AED machine and how to use an EpiPen. They also engage in basic first aid training.

These training sessions equip administrators with the ability to properly respond to emergencies on campus, and they should continue to be hosted. However, teachers are

not required to attend these biannual sessions, which must change.

When a medical emergency occurs in a classroom or on school grounds, it is not guaranteed an administrator will be available nearby.

Regardless of where an emergency is on campus, nearby staff members must be able to properly respond. The most effective way to ensure this is by mandating training sessions for both administrators and teachers.

While all public school teachers complete CPR training for their credentialing, their certifications expire after two years, according to the Red Cross. As such, HHS should require all staff members to renew their CPR licenses upon expiration.

To assist students in responding to medical emergencies, HHS should provide access to proper resources. Similar to how monthly fire drills are hosted at

HHS, administrators should consider creating medical emergency drills to teach students how to respond in unforeseen circumstances.

Another possible approach is implementing advisory lessons geared toward responding appropriately to medical emergencies.

During these lessons, HHS can invite professionals to discuss how to identify the symptoms of a medical emergency, as well as the proper way to react in these circumstances.

HHS can also allocate time for hands-on activities to help students gain experience with responding to emergencies.

Training students to take proper action in the event of an unforeseen circumstance will further advance the safety of our campus.

Additionally, each classroom should contain the information of nearby hospitals, as well as their emergency contacts.

When encountering a medical emergency, students will be able to refer to this information, while waiting for

a trained staff member or administrator

to arrive to the scene and administer first aid.

This content can be presented on posters placed on the walls of classrooms. Those posters should outline the signs of common medical issues, like heart attacks and strokes.

Under each medical issue, the poster should provide an overview of how students should respond in each circumstance. These posters will aid students in identifying a medical issue and reacting accordingly.

Ultimately, changes need to be enacted to our current emergency response policies to create a safer school campus. Both teachers and students must be better prepared.

Teachers must undergo frequent training, and students must be offered greater resources. As a school, we must ensure everyone is equipped to handle any emergencies that may arise.

During a medical emergency, every minute counts. A student, staff member or administrator who can quickly react to an emergency situation on campus has the potential to save lives.

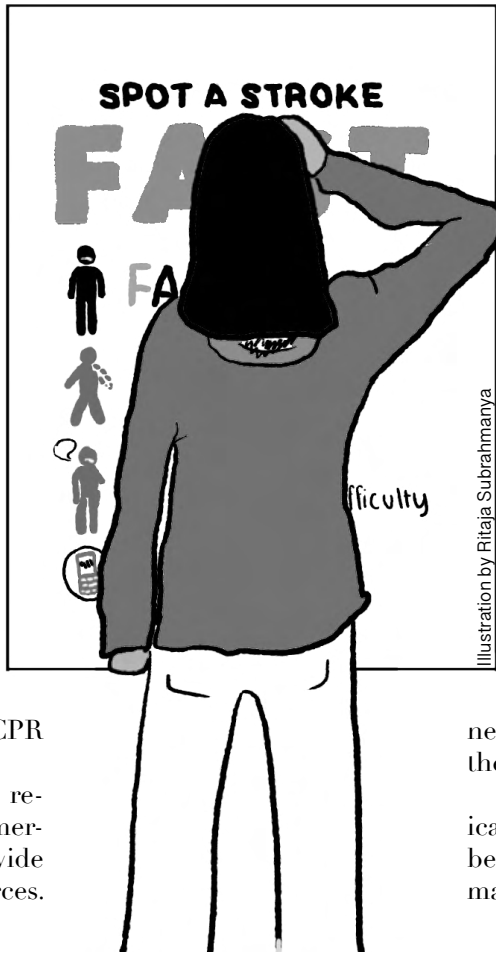


Illustration by Ritaja Subrahmanya

EDUCATING OUR CAMPUS: Posters detailing symptoms of common medical issues, such as a heart attack or stroke, can aid students during medical emergencies.

Healthcare crisis demands solutions

California needs single-payer healthcare

By Keshav Kumar

The promise of progressive reform in California faced yet another setback when AB 1400 was defeated in the State Assembly without a vote on Jan. 31. The bill would have created a trailblazing universal health care system, with citizens' expenses being paid for by the state government, according to ABC News.

The legislature's rejection of this bill will be highly detrimental to the health and finances of Californians. If we want to fix the disaster that we call our healthcare system, our leaders must stop stalling and take action immediately.

The outrageous cost of

healthcare accentuates the need for AB 1400. In fact, California spends about \$10,000 per person on healthcare every year, which is higher than any other country in the world, according to the World Population Review.

Despite these ridiculous costs, Californians are not getting much in return. Over 3 million Californians do not have health insurance, according to the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

If an uninsured person is faced with high medical costs, they must fend for themselves, which is part of the reason why medical costs are the leading cause of bankruptcy in America, according to CNBC.

Our privately-run healthcare system is fatally flawed. A health insurance company will charge its customers as much as possible, providing minimal benefits to gain maximum profit. This leads to health insurance being withheld from those who cannot afford to pay.

The solution is clear: the government should replace private health insurance companies

with state-sponsored coverage. Since the government does not have to gain profits in the way a private company does, it can take on the cost of paying for universal health care. This is known as a single-payer healthcare system, which is what AB 1400 proposed.

Despite the clear benefits of a single-payer system, opponents argue that such a program is too expensive to be reasonable.

Although universal healthcare in California would cost the state government about \$350 billion, California's government, businesses and families already spend a total of \$517 billion on medical expenses, according to NPR. Although the government will spend more on healthcare, these efforts will be worthwhile, because they will save the money and lives of their citizens.

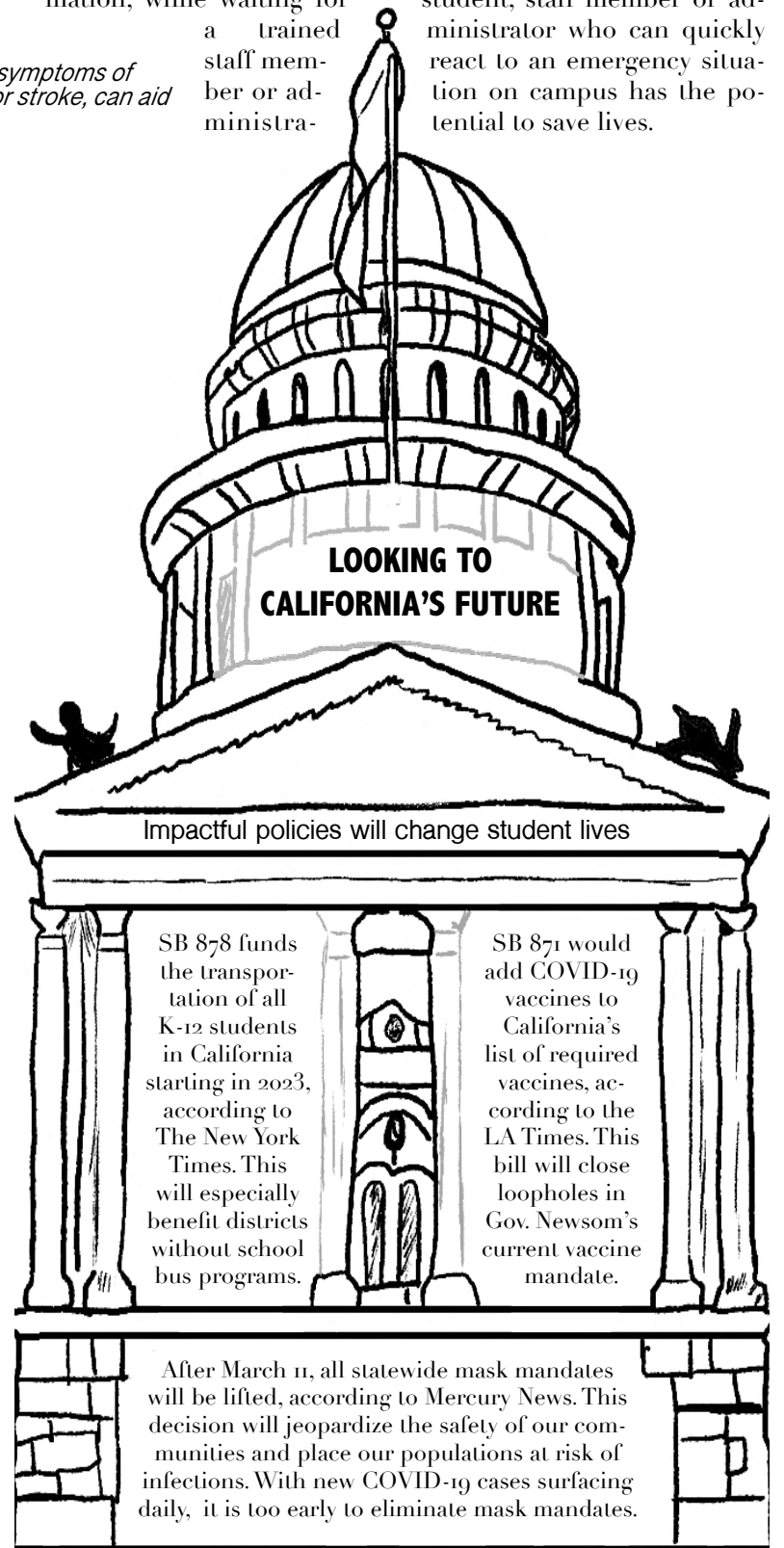
California should be the most progressive state in the country, and we must serve as a model for the rest of the country to follow. In the case of healthcare, we have an opportunity to lead by example, by demonstrating that an ambitious single-payer system can and will work.

Ultimately, we have an obligation to take action if we want the rest of the country to do the same.



Illustration by Ritaja Subrahmanya

COMBATING HEALTHCARE CRISIS: Government-run healthcare will inevitably save lives.



Infographic by Macy Li and Ritaja Subrahmanya