

Testimony  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
June 2, 2020  
Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5

John William Templeton

Author, "African-Americans in the West" *Oxford Encyclopedia of African-American History, Vol. 1, 1619-1890 The Age of Frederick Douglass*  
150th anniversary speaker for Rev. Thomas Starr King for Grand Lodge of California and Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California

When George Floyd pleaded for help with his dying breaths this week, no one listened.

It was a similar scene to Rodney King's cries for help in 1991. No one listened then.

With your responsibility to assess the fiscal impact of proposed measures, I urge you to consider the \$1 billion per year in lost revenues to African-American, Latinx, Asian American and women-led firms from Prop. 209 each year since its passage.

This misleading initiative was out of the same vein as the 1851 right of testimony act which took away the right to vote and right to testify in court from "Negros, Orientals and Indians." As a result, they did not get to participate fully in the tremendous wealth creation of the "gold rush." It was Rev. Thomas Starr King who led the fight to overturn that law and open up California's role in the Union victory in the Civil War.

The communities which saw the King beating as a societal knee on their neck instead got Prop. 209 as a response. With new stadia, the Olympics and massive development across the state, Prop. 209 has shackled the best instincts of policy makers to insure inclusion and fairness.

Vincent Pan and Eva Patterson are the Rev. Thomas Starr King of this age, telling us all that it is time for Opportunity for All.

UC-Santa Cruz' Dr. Thomas Fairlie reports that 41 percent of black owned firms, 32 percent of Latinx firms, 26 percent of Asian-American firms and 25 percent of women owned firms went under between February and April.

Our state and local leaders need the capability to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 14th Amendment and the Unruh Civil Rights Act to meet those needs and assure that public funds and land use policy are not tools to widen inequality.

The groups mentioned represent the majority of California's population. Left out from contracting, educational, health care and employment opportunities, how can they contribute to California's rebound?

Allowing the citizens of the state to reconsider in the light of a 24-year drought how best to bring all into the California dream is a fiscally responsible decision. Are you listening?

John William Templeton  
[johnwtempleton@blackmoney.com](mailto:johnwtempleton@blackmoney.com)  
(415) 240-3537