Commissioner Lara wants to offer auto group discounts to more low-income Californians — What others are saying

13 California consumer groups and worker advocates agree...

“Proposition 103 contains language that was designed to enable a group of consumers to negotiate discounts for their members. Labor unions, fraternal associations, veterans groups, senior citizen organizations, and service organizations are examples of groups that have properly utilized the intent of this language to negotiate discounts for millions of their members.” (Letter to the Assembly Insurance Committee signed by 13 groups, March 9, 2020)

Consumer Federation of America insurance expert Doug Heller said insurers would still be able to offer discounts to groups such as the California Teachers Association or AARP. "It's the ratings scheme that some companies have used that slice and dice drivers based on their job title and level of education that will be blocked by this rule," Heller said. (CBS News, December 24, 2019)

"If you’re a Latino or black Californian with a low-wage job and no college degree, you already have the economic deck stacked against you. And now, a survey by the Department of Insurance shows that you probably aren’t getting a discount on your car insurance that more affluent Californians get, regardless of how safe a driver and reliable a customer you may be.” (October 19, 2019)

“A doctor who lives in ritzy Beverly Hills, California, and who has a clean driving record gets a nice financial perk — a generous discount on their car insurance rates. But in Watts, a lower-income neighborhood in Los Angeles just 20 miles south, a cashier who is equally prudent behind the wheel is likely to pay considerably more.” (October 19, 2019)

“People with less education and lower-paying jobs are, on average, quoted higher prices than those with more education and higher-paying jobs and similar driving records and habits.” (January 2021)