

**GOVERNOR DAVIS MAKES STATEMENT ON EUGENICS**  
**3/11/2003**

**SACRAMENTO**

Governor Gray Davis today issued the following statement regarding the issue of forced sterilization in California - the idea that people could breed a better human race by removing "substandard" humans from the gene pool:

"To the victims and their families of this past injustice, the people of California are deeply sorry for the suffering you endured over the years. Our hearts are heavy for the pain caused by eugenics. It was a sad and regrettable chapter in the state's history, and it is one that must never be repeated again."

California enacted a eugenics law in 1909, resulting in the involuntary sterilization of approximately 19,000 "undesirable" Californians.