



CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER JOHN CHIANG

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Treasurer Appoints Dante Allen to Lead CalABLE**

**SACRAMENTO** – State Treasurer John Chiang today announced the appointment of Dante Allen to the post of Executive Director of the California Achieving a Better Life Experience program, which helps people with disabilities build financial security without putting at risk their existing benefits.

“Dante brings a connection, professionalism and passion to the work of making CalABLE the great success it deserves to be.” Chiang said. “He has experience, drive and a deep appreciation for the difference this program can make in the quality of life experienced by individuals with disabilities.”

CalABLE provides life-improving opportunities to qualified California individuals and their families, as well as to people with disabilities living in other states, by giving them access to tax-free savings accounts without the worry of losing vital government assistance.

“CalABLE represents an incredible opportunity for California populations living with physical and cognitive disabilities,” Allen said. “For too long, limitations on assets these individuals could attain while participating in many government programs have all but guaranteed a life of poverty for many. I’m proud to be a part of CalABLE and to play a significant role in helping to eliminate that standard and achieve a better life experience for a community that has been too often overlooked. “

Allen was previously a senior communications leader within the California Department of Public Health’s Office of Health Equity (OHE). He was responsible for helping to reduce or eliminate disparities in health across California for all populations no matter their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background.

Prior to joining OHE, Dante served as a Communications Director for health plan and hospital operations at Kaiser Permanente, where he developed stakeholder engagement strategies and also led the Kaiser Permanente association for employees with disabilities resource group that promoted networking, recruitment and retention strategies for employees with disabilities. His professional experience also includes working for health care providers and a national advocacy group.

Allen was born with a form of spina bifida, a congenital condition that caused partial paralysis requiring him to use a wheelchair. He enjoys outdoor activities including swimming, wheelchair basketball and skiing. He is also the proud parent of a teenage daughter.

Allen received a Masters of Communications Management from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, He earned his B.A. from the University of California, Davis.

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