



'50% OF ENTRY LEVEL JOBS COULD GO' - AI CHIEF

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Dario Amodei, Anthropic CEO, wrote a 20,000 word essay this week on AI risks (Credit: TechCrunch)

## The Weekly Briefing — Thursday, January 29

***Only a few weeks into the new session but it's already clear that California's budget is dominating proceedings. While Gov. Newsom identified a deficit of under \$3 billion, the non-partisan Legislative Analysts' Office says the figure is closer to \$18 billion. Lawmakers seem skeptical of the projections from Newsom's office - and see threats to services everywhere. Also this***

***week, threats to jobs (from AI), threats to farm animals (from wolves) and threats to ICE detention centers (from lawmakers). Read on, and enjoy!***

## Number of the day — \$68 million

The amount Google agreed to pay to settle claims that its voice assistant inappropriately spied on smartphone users in order to send them targeted ads. Google [denied wrongdoing](#) but agreed to a settlement to avoid litigation.

### AI COULD TAKE OUT 50% OF ENTRY LEVEL JOBS

**Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic**, one of the Bay Area's leading AI companies, warned — in a 20,000 word essay — that U.S. policymakers are dangerously out of step with the pace and risks of artificial intelligence. They are focusing on economic upsides while ignoring looming security and labor disruptions. He cautions that without action, AI could erase 50% of entry-level jobs, and enable autonomous development of biological weapons and large-scale cyber warfare.

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### PREDATORS IN THE BACKYARD: ALARM OVER WILDLIFE CRISIS

California is grappling with a "**full-blown crisis**" of escalating human-wildlife interactions that state officials warn has outpaced management resources. Lawmakers and residents from the state's most rural corners detailed a year of harrowing predator attacks, and say a lack of funding leaves communities vulnerable to mountain lions, bears and gray wolves.

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### CHILD CARE FREEZE SPARKS ALARM

Parents and child care providers warned lawmakers that a proposed **federal freeze** on child care funding could destabilize families, force parents out of work and shutter providers across California. Lawmakers pressed the state to prepare a backstop plan as legal challenges play out and billions in federal support remain at risk.

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### UP TO 2 MILLION CALIFORNIANS FACE MEDICAID LOSS

California health officials and lawmakers warned that proposed federal **Medicaid cuts** could strip coverage from millions of residents and drain tens of billions of

dollars from the state's health care system. They cautioned that the changes would accelerate insurance losses, destabilize hospitals and push more families toward medical debt.

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## 🔑 CALIFORNIA 'S 50% TAX ON PRIVATE ICE DETENTION CENTERS

**Assemblymember Matt Haney** has introduced AB 1633, a legislative proposal seeking to impose a 50% gross receipts tax on private corporations operating ICE-funded detention centers across California. The bill directly challenges federal deportation infrastructure by targeting the \$500 million in contracts that sustain the seven private facilities in the state.

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## 💰 WEALTH TAX MEASURES: WHO'S FOR AND AGAINST...

We audited coverage from across the national and statewide media to compile a **comprehensive guide** to the stakeholders lining up behind, and against, California's three major wealth and executive tax ballot initiatives.

👉 Read our story [HERE](#):

## Today's Quote

**"It was very clearly, just huge. It's just crazy that it was roaming around San Francisco."**

— **Jessica Fajardo**, San Francisco resident commenting on a mountain lion she spotted walking around downtown S.F. this week. The animal was tranquilized by the city's Animal Care & Control.

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