

4.5 Proposal for CABA 2017 Board Awards

It is proposed that the following be considered for CABA 2017 Board Awards

- 1) Sylvia Reyes and the plaintiffs of Mendez Vs. Westminster (Mendez, Thomas Estrada, William Guzman, Frank Palomino and Lorenzo Ramirez)
- 2) Enid Lee
- 3) California Mini Corp
- 4) Legislative: Kevin De Leon and/or Ricardo Lara (if Prop 58 is successful)

Mendez v Westminster History

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Righting a wrong

Mendez v. Westminster brought an end to segregation in O.C. schools - and ultimately throughout the state and nation.

By Phillip Zonkel, Press Telegram, Staff Writer

IN SEPTEMBER 1943, Sylvia Mendez, then 9 years old, and her two brothers went with their aunt and three cousins to enroll at the 17th Street School in Westminster.

School officials, however, told her aunt that her children, who were half-Mexican but had light skin and a French surname, could register at the "white" elementary school, but the Mendez kids, who were dark skinned and had a Mexican last name, were not allowed; they had to enroll at the "Mexican" school 10 blocks away.

Mendez's parents were appalled and sued the school district in what turned out to be a ground-breaking civil rights case that helped outlaw almost 100 years of segregation in California and was a precedent seven years later for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

"I didn't realize registering for school would have such an impact," says Mendez, 71, who now lives in Fullerton.

Segregation was standard practice in 1940s California (Asian and Native American children also attended separate schools), but it wasn't always the case.

When California Constitution was drafted in 1849, Spanish and English were the state's official languages.

Previous to 1855, Mexican children attended Anglo schools. But after the Mexican-American War and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded California, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado to the United States, was signed, the state legislature changed a few laws.

In 1855, the state legislature said school boards could not use public funds to educate non-white students. In 1864, non-white students were educated in segregated schools.

Until the Mendez case, the logic of "separate but equal" facilities, which was established by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1896 case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, was the law of the land.

The Mendez family (father Gonzalo, mother Felicitas, sons Gonzalo Jr. and Jerome and daughter Sylvia) moved from Santa Ana, where they owned a cafe, to Westminster, where they leased a ranch from the Munemitsus, a Japanese family who was being interned at Poston, Ariz.

When Gonzalo was told his children were barred from the 17th Street School, he talked with the superintendent and then went to the Orange County School District. They rejected his requests that his children be allowed to enroll.

GOING TO COURT

The Mendez family, who had become successful tenant farmers in Westminster, hired David Marcus, a Los Angeles civil rights attorney, to sue the Westminster school district.

But Marcus made a bigger case, and on March 2, 1945, filed *Mendez v. Westminster*, a class-action lawsuit against four Orange County school districts (Westminster, Santa Ana, Garden Grove and El Modena, now Eastern Orange) seeking an injunction that would order the schools to integrate.

Friends of the court briefs in favor of desegregation were filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Jewish Congress and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Friends of the court briefs in favor of desegregation were filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Jewish Congress and the Japanese American Citizens League.

The plaintiffs were five Mexican-American families (Mendez, Thomas Estrada, William Guzman, Frank Palomino and Lorenzo Ramirez) on behalf of 5,000 similarly situated children.

Sylvia says she wasn't surprised by her father's actions. "It was during the war when people were accused of being a



Communist if you didn't follow what was right, but he wasn't scared," she says. "He knew that what he was doing was the right thing to do. He was going to right a wrong."

The trial started on July 5 in the U.S. Federal District Court in Los Angeles. Marcus argued that the Mexican children were not treated equally by attending inferior schools with substandard books.

Marcus also argued that the Mexican children were not given adequate language testing before inclusion in the "Mexican" schools, and that segregation based on nationality violated the equal protection clause under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The school districts' lawyer, on the other hand, said education was a state matter and the federal courts had no jurisdiction. He also argued that students were segregated so Mexican students could receive English lessons that would ready them for immersion with the already fluent English students.

A FAVORABLE RULING

On March 18, 1946, Judge Paul J. McCormick ruled that the "segregation prevalent in the defendant school districts foster antagonisms in the children and suggest inferiority among them where none exists" and that the equal protection clause had been violated.

"That was radical for the time," says Chris Arriola, a Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney, who has written extensively on the Mendez v. Westminster case. "That decision overturned a law that said segregation was OK."

The school districts appealed the decision, but on April 14, 1947, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld the federal court ruling.

Shortly thereafter California Gov. Earl Warren pushed the state legislature into repealing laws that segregated Asians and Native American school children.

Mendez v. Westminster also paved the way for another historic civil rights trial.

Thurgood Marshall, who wrote the NAACP's friend of the court brief for Mendez v. Westminster, used the decision as precedent when he argued Brown v. Board of Education in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1954, Warren, then Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote the opinion in Brown v. Board of Education that declared school segregation unconstitutional.

In 2007, to mark the Mendez trial's 60th anniversary, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a special stamp. Ten years ago, ground was broken in Santa Ana for the Gonzalo Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School. It opened in 2001.

LESSONS NOT LEARNED

Despite the triumphs of Mendez v. Westminster, the case remains largely unknown and unacknowledged. The California State Board of Education does not include the case in its K-12 content standards.

"The horrific part of the story is it's not part of the history books," Arriola says. "The California State Board of Education should be ashamed of themselves for not including it. It's remarkable and frustrating."

But some people are trying to raise the awareness.

Sandra Robbie won a 2003 Emmy for a KOCE-TV documentary "Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos Los Ninos." The 30-minute documentary is available at www.koce.org. "This DVD isn't the be all and end all. It's the beginning of the conversation," says Robbie, who also has co-written a children's book called "Mendez vs. Westminster."

Sylvia Mendez also spreads the word. Mendez says that her parents were disappointed no one told them "gracias" for fighting the good fight. Now, Mendez, who speaks at schools throughout the region, says it's her mission to tell people.

"This is my legacy," says Mendez, who has been invited to speak at Harvard University next year. "I told my mom I will make sure everyone knows what you did."

Phillip Zonkel, (562) 499-1258 phillip.zonkel@presstelegram.com

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Enid Lee

Enid Lee began her career as a classroom teacher 35 years ago. Today she is an accomplished "front line teacher," teacher educator, researcher, writer, consultant, facilitator and speaker. She has taught in the Caribbean, Canada and the USA and has been involved in the professional development of teachers for two decades. She consults internationally on anti-racist, inclusionary and equitable education.

Through her consulting firm, Enid assists urban schools districts and individual schools to continuously restructure themselves for equitable outcomes for all students. She has pioneered the equity-centered initiative, Putting Race On The Table, which is designed to help teachers and administrators develop the skills, knowledge and will to create and maintain equity-centered classrooms. She facilitates an international network of schools enabling educators to share strategies for addressing questions of language, race,



ENID LEE
DIRECTOR OF ENIDLEE CONSULTANTS INC

culture and class in education and for ensuring that teaching and learning are characterized by academic rigor and readiness for social justice action.

Enid Lee is the author of over 30 publications. They include *Letters to Marcia: A teacher's guide to Anti-racist education*, the docudramas, "Quick to Judge" and "Food for Thought" from the television series, *Many Voices*, and *Beyond Heroes and Holidays: A Practical Guides to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education and Staff Development*.

Her current area of research is professional development and anti-racist school leadership. She has served on numerous boards and commissions concerned with education, immigration and employment and has been an advisor to leaders in education, social services and cultural and arts organizations on equity issues. She is currently a Visiting Scholar with [Teaching for Change](#) in Washington, D.C. and formerly held the same position at the New Teacher Center, University of California at Santa Cruz.

Enid Lee has been the recipient of several awards for her ground-breaking work in anti-racist education and community-building among Black communities and immigrant parents. She recently received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from one of Canada's oldest universities for her contribution to the development of anti-racist education in that country.

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California Mini-Corps 50th Anniversary Celebration

Proposal for 2017 CABE Conference

The California Mini-Corps 50th Anniversary Planning Committee (CMCAPC) is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the California Mini-Corps Program (CMC) in 2017 and very excited about partnering with the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) to mark this important milestone in the Program's history. This proposal provides information about the California Mini-Corps Program and outlines the CMCAPC's proposal for collaboration and participation in the 2017 CABE Conference to be held in Anaheim, California on March 29-April 1, 2017.

The CMC shares CABE's vision of **"biliteracy, educational equity, and 21st century success for all"**. From its inception in 1967, the California Mini-Corps Program (CMC) has positively impacted the educational lives of thousands of migrant children and has contributed to California's bilingual teacher workforce. With the increased number of Latino and English Learner (EL) students in California's public schools and throughout the nation, the CMC provides a successful model that can be readily replicated and implemented to serve similar student populations in other states. The CMC was established in 1967 and modeled after the Peace Corps through an innovative partnership among the California Department of Education, Chico State University and the Butte County Office of Education. The program originally started as a summer school program where college students with a farm worker background were recruited to work as teacher assistants in migrant-student impacted summer schools. Over the next six years, the program expanded and proved to be a promising vehicle for graduating former migrant students who went on to pursue careers in education. In 1974, the CMC expanded to the regular school year. In 1976, the State Board of Education adopted the California Master Plan for Migrant Education and in it, institutionalized the CMC. Under the Master Plan, the program would recruit and provide specialized training to college students with a migrant background that would enable them to provide tutorial services to migrant students. These college students would also receive professional development and classroom experience to help them become future bilingual-bicultural teachers.

The Program Today

Since its inception, the program has expanded to 24 programs on 22 community college and university campuses across the state. Throughout its history the program has been administered through the Butte County Office of Education with Title I – Part C contract funds from the California Department of Education. The CMC encompasses two major goals:

1. To provide direct instructional services to increase migrant student academic achievement through a cadre of trained college tutors.
2. To develop a cadre of future credentialed bilingual educators that will be better equipped to work with migrant students.

Apart from the 24 college campus project sites, the program houses a central administration office in Sacramento. Collaboration with the 20 Migrant Education regional offices and the Institutions of Higher Education are essential to the program's success. Each year the program issues memoranda of understanding with each regional office and IHE partner that outlines the deliverables and responsibilities of each entity. Each IHE provides in-kind services that include office and classroom space, assistance with tutor recruitment and collaboration on professional development activities. The Migrant Education regional offices assist with tutor placements and collaborate on professional development activities.

Currently, the program provides tutorial support to migrant students, K-12, during the regular school year and summer school. During the regular school year each project site is staffed by a certificated project coordinator, a part time office assistant and a cadre of 18-20 college tutors. To be eligible to work as a CMC tutor, applicants must be full-time undergraduate college students, bilingual, with experiential knowledge of the migrant lifestyle, and be seeking a career in education. Once hired, the tutors are placed in K-12 classrooms and provide direct instructional services to migrant students under the supervision of a certificated master teacher. During the summer the CMC employs over 375 tutors that are placed in migrant impacted summer schools throughout the state. As in the regular year, these tutors work under the supervision of certificated summer school teacher. In 2014-15, the CMC served an average of 6,000 K-12 migrant students during each fall and spring semesters and nearly 7,000 students during the summer.

Strengthening Program through Partnerships and Collaboration

The CMC celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017 and has endured and grown stronger through an established network of formal partnerships that include Migrant Education regional offices, 24 community and state colleges and hundreds of school districts throughout the state. The planning committee believes that a partnership with CABE will strengthen and yield many positive outcomes for both organizations. As such, the CMCAPC submits this proposal to celebrate CMC's 50th anniversary and to partner with CABE at its 2017 annual state conference.

SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN (/)

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
KEVIN DE LEÓN
Representing Senate District 24

(/)

Biography

Downloadable version of the Senator's headshot: (High (</sites/sd24.senate.ca.gov/files/KDL-Portrait-High-Res.jpg>)) (Low (</sites/sd24.senate.ca.gov/files/KDL-Portrait-Low-Res.jpg>))

Senator Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, has proven to be a tenacious leader that takes on powerful special interests on behalf of his diverse district and those marginalized in California's economy.

With a focus on using the public-policy process to empower the least fortunate and voiceless, he has led a bold agenda to increase economic opportunity for all Californians focused on education, equity for women, immigrants and low-wage workers, public safety, and strongly maintaining the state's leadership in building a clean-energy economy that benefits everyone.

Senator de León has authored groundbreaking legislation on a variety of issues that have become national models and exemplify his ambitious approach to policymaking. He employs this today as he leads the upper house in California's legislature, making real progress on critical issues that stands in stark contrast to the U.S. Congress which stays mired in gridlock.

De León served four years in the Assembly before his election to the Senate in 2010. He is the first person in California history to serve as the Chair of the Appropriations committees in both the Assembly and Senate. In 2014 he became the first Latino elected leader of the Senate in over a century. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, later earning a degree with honors from Pitzer College. He is a Rodell Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California.

Leader on the Environment and Clean Energy

Last year, De León championed sweeping new standards (<http://focus.senate.ca.gov/climate>) that double energy efficiency in buildings statewide and set the largest state in the union on a path to generate half of its electricity from renewable sources, all by 2030. The debate over de León's SB 350, the most far-reaching climate legislation in the country, created a serious public discussion on how to adequately address climate change and severe pollution while creating equitable access to clean energy.

Along these lines, De León has successfully directed more clean-energy investments to disadvantaged communities. His SB 535 (2012) requires the California Air Resources Board to spend at least 25 percent of cap-and-trade revenue to benefit low-income communities across California disproportionately impacted by pollution. This law is resulting in new transit, energy efficiency, renewable energy and affordable housing projects across the state.

Last year, with SB 1275, he created a rebate initiative to make electric cars more accessible to working families with the goal of placing one million low-emission vehicles on the roads.

In 2012, De León co-chaired the successful Proposition 39 campaign closing a corporate-tax loophole and creating a \$2.5 billion revenue fund for energy-efficiency upgrades in schools.

Exemplifying his longtime commitment to increasing access to the environment, de León's first legislative measure when he arrived in Sacramento allocated park funds for communities lacking parks and green space, resulting in 126 park projects across the state - the largest initiative of its kind in the nation.

Tackling pollution in his district, de León was instrumental in bring attention and accountability to the hazardous pollution caused by the Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon, which for years had operated illegally while contaminating nearby communities with lead, arsenic, and other toxins. de León has since secured millions of dollars for cleanup, while implementing oversight and reform measures at the Department of Toxic Substance Control to prevent similar future occurrences.

Senator de León's record on the environment and energy has been studied by international leaders as they lay out their own steps to confront climate change and build clean-energy economies. Last year, de León led the California delegation to the U.N. Climate Talks in Peru and will be accompanying Governor Brown to Paris in December to showcase he latest landmark accomplishments.

Public Safety

Throughout his tenure in the legislature, De León has fought for sensible gun control. This year, he led the charge for the most stringent gun control policies in a generation, leading efforts to approve 11 measures, including his groundbreaking bill, SB 1235, which requires background checks for anyone who buys or sells ammunition. Governor Brown signed the bulk of the measures into law in early July 2016.

Voice for the Working Class

Senator de León negotiated with Governor Jerry Brown and the state's unions to secure a \$15 minimum wage in California, and then shepherded the legislation through both houses to the Governor's desk. He fought to ensure the legislation was comprehensive and universal, opposing industry-specific and regional carve-outs that would have weakened the law.

In 2012, de León overcame powerful opposition from Wall Street to pass SB 1234 which created Secure Choice retirement-savings program for California's private-sector low-income workers. Secure Choice is the first automatic IRA program of its kind in the nation and de León has worked with the White House and Labor Secretary to remove any federal legal barriers that could prevent California and other states that followed from fully implementing their programs.

Senator de León has also authored workers' compensation reform that lowered insurance costs for businesses, while increasing workers' benefits. De León also authored legislation that strengthens the Labor Commissioner's authority in tackling the scourge of wage theft in cities across California - especially Los Angeles which has been dubbed the "Wage Theft Capital of the U.S."

De León also negotiated the expansion of California's Film and Television Tax Credit Program, replacing the program's lottery system with a process that quantifies job creation and economic benefits to the state's economy.

At the start of his Senate career, De León led efforts that cleaned out corrupt governance in the city of Vernon and put in motion political reforms that have since created a real community and good neighbor to Los Angeles.

Leader on Immigration

Senator de León is a leading international voice on immigrant rights and proudly represents a district comprised of many different cultures and ethnicities. During his time in the legislature, he has facilitated numbers of immigration reform laws that together have been recognized as a model for the nation. In 2013, de León brokered a compromise with Governor Jerry Brown to ensure signage of a law which allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses, gain access to insurance, and step out of the shadow economy.

This year, he led a bicameral coalition to sponsor legislation that addresses lapses in our justice and labor systems creating serious challenges for the California's immigrant community, including stronger wage theft laws, securing u-visas from law enforcement, and providing healthcare for undocumented children. Before joining the Legislature, De León taught citizenship courses to immigrants and led opposition to 1994's Proposition 187, a voter-approved statewide initiative that denied government services to undocumented immigrants.

Women's Advocate

In 2014, his bill to prevent sexual assault on college campuses was *first* law in the nation to require affirmative consent, earning him the recognition from *Marie Claire* last year as one of the "ten biggest supporters of women's right in U.S. government." Ms. Magazine selected his "yes means yes" measure as the most significant legislative victory on behalf of women for 2014.

This year, he followed up with legislation that requires public high schools teaching health education classes to include sexual assault prevention in their curricula. He also authored legislation this year that would make significant investments in child care with a focus on empowering women in the workforce. The state budget resulted with new funding for thousands of more slots for subsidized child care.

Running the Senate

In his first year leading the Senate, de León has empowered his caucus members to take on big and bold legislation that truly shape the policy conversation in the State Capitol. The Senate continues to prove why California's legislature is the nation's R&D center for common-sense and forward-thinking policies (Read full Senate Democrats accomplishments here (<http://focus.senate.ca.gov/accomplishments>)). Senator de León also strengthened the Senate's oversight functions with an unprecedented amount of hearings on the operations, effectiveness, and failures of government departments, agencies, and programs. To increase transparency and public participation in the legislative process, de León implemented video of all hearings to be livestreamed and archived online for the first time.

Negotiating the Budget

In two years serving as the Senate's lead in negotiating the budget, De León has secured critical investments that strengthen the bookends of a student's educational career, pushing for new investments in childcare and higher education. Under Senator de León's leadership, California has added over 20,000 additional slots for California students in the University of California and the California State University. In 2016, he also championed the "No Place Like Home" initiative, an innovative and ambitious proposal to address homelessness in California by securing \$2 billion in bond financing for construction and rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless Californians suffering from mental illness. Both budgets during his tenure as Senate leader have been delivered on time, provided protective reserves, payed down debt, provided relief funding for the drought, and wisely invested in children and working families.

Appointments

As leader of the Senate, Pro Tem De León also serves as Chair of the Rules Committee, which is responsible for the vetting of Governor's appointments that are subject to confirmation by the Senate. This role also provides additional opportunity for the oversight of Administration activities, as the confirmation process allows for the review and evaluation of state agencies, departments, and boards and commissions.

El primer Latino elegido como Presidente Pro Tempore del Senado en más de 130 años, el Senador Kevin de León (D-Los Ángeles) en verdad encarna el Sueño Californiano.

Nacido en el más humilde de los inicios y habiendo confrontado una multitud de obstáculos, Kevin emergió para convertirse en un organizador de derechos civiles y un consumado legislador estatal. Su madre, Carmen, una camarera y cuidadora de personas de la tercera edad, le enseñó ambos, la nobleza de un día trabajado arduamente y nuestra obligación compartida para construir un futuro mejor para la próxima generación.

Tras años como educador, enseñando clases de ciudadanía e

estadounidense, Kevin se convirtió en un organizador comunitario ayudando a planear la marcha de derechos civiles más grande en la historia de California en contra de la aprobación de la Proposición 187. En el 2014, vigésimo aniversario de la aprobación de la Proposición 187, su anteproyecto del Senado SB 396 borra esta mancha constitucional de las leyes de California. Tras años como defensor de los maestros y escuelas públicas con los sindicatos de la Asociación Nacional de Educación y la Asociación de Maestros de California, Kevin de León se postuló por un escaño en la legislatura estatal de California y ganó.

En la Legislatura, Kevin es conocido nacionalmente por legislación pionera con la autoría del proyecto de ley “Si Significa Sí”, para proteger a estudiantes de educación superior en su lucha en contra de la violencia y el abuso sexual. Su esfuerzo para proveer seguridad de jubilación a los millones de trabajadores de bajos recursos económicos ha sido llamado “un modelo para dirigirse a un problema nacional” por el rotativo The New York Times. Él fue el autor de la primera legislación en la nación para prevenir la separación innecesaria de familias – protegiéndolos para que los derechos de los padres no sean eliminados debido a su estatus migratorio. También luchó para asegurar que los fondos de la histórica ley de California para reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, fueran encaminados a proyectos de calidad del aire, agua y otros proyectos del medio ambiente en vecindarios de bajos recursos económicos.

Como no es uno para alejarse de temas polémicos o complejos, el copresidió la Proposición 39 – el Acta de California para Empleos de Energía Limpia – la cual ayuda crear más de 40,000 trabajos Californianos, y generar mil millones de dólares para modernizar las escuelas de California. Él reformó la Compensación de los Trabajadores reduciendo los costos de seguros para las empresas, protegiendo a los trabajadores mientras se aumentaron sus beneficios.

Kevin consolidó un acuerdo de gran beneficio para el medio ambiente y para los trabajadores de California, mediante la negociación de un arreglo sobre la prohibición de las bolsas de plástico de un solo uso el cual es un ejemplo para equilibrar los trabajos y bienestar del planeta. Este año también negoció un Crédito Tributario para el Cine y Televisión para mantener las cámaras rodando en California, reteniendo y creando buenos empleos. En 2013, negoció un acuerdo con el Gobernador Jerry Brown para la aprobación de la AB 60, para permitir que los inmigrantes indocumentados obtengan licencias para conducir al trabajo, recoger a sus hijos de la escuela y ser miembros productivos de nuestra sociedad.

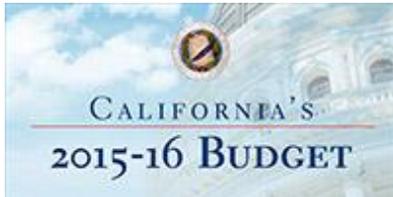
Kevin fue el primero de su familia en graduarse de la secundaria. Se graduó de Pitzer College, una de las universidades de Claremont con honores. También él es Becario Rodel del Instituto de Aspen y Profesor Adjunto de la Universidad de California del Sur (USC).

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**DIVERSITY
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*Economically Empowering
the Transgender, Bisexual,
Lesbian, and Gay Community!*

**Monday, June 20, 2016
9 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.**



Los Angeles City College Student Union
4498 Monroe Street,
Los Angeles, California 90029

The Diversity Job-Fair connects employers with qualified applicants from the community and shows that companies are truly equal opportunity employers. The transgender community comes with a wealth of professional skills and experience, yet transgender job seekers face unemployment rates at twice the national average. We will host an employer breakfast that will include a training on Gender and Sexual Diversity in the Workplace.

For questions, please contact my district staff at 213-483-9300

(</sites/sd24.senate.ca.gov/files/2016-06-job-fair.pdf>)



(</sd24/first-5-la>)



(<http://apps.dmv.ca.gov/ab60/index.html>)

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About Senator Ricardo Lara



Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) was elected with overwhelming support in November 2012 to represent the Southeast Los Angeles County cities of the 33rd Senate District. Raised in a blue collar immigrant household, Ricardo knows first-hand the challenges facing working families and is committed to improving the quality of life for all Californians.

Ricardo is one of the most influential members of the State Senate, chairing the powerful Appropriations Committee and serving as a member of the Energy, Utilities and Communications, Governance and Finance, Governmental Organization, and Banking and Financial Institutions committees.

An advocate for the environment, Ricardo created the California Clean Bus, Truck and Freight Program to encourage clean energy while investing in good jobs and authored legislation to create a state plan to address short-lived climate pollutants such as diesel soot, which are known to cause climate warming and negatively impact public health.

A champion for educational equity, civil rights and immigrant rights, Ricardo champions legislation that improves the quality of life for vulnerable communities. He has authored several first-in-the nation laws that recognize and invest in immigrant communities such as the California DREAM Loan Program, which helps undocumented students apply for loans to complete their higher education goals. Supporting California's entrepreneurial spirit, Ricardo's bill to update and expand access to professional licensing rules, regardless of immigration status, will stimulate local economies and create jobs.

Working his way through college as a teacher's assistant in an English immersion classroom, Ricardo believes that multilingual education in schools is important to giving California students the competitive economic and educational edge. That's why he authored the California Ed.G.E., or Education for a Global Economy Initiative, which will ask voters to revisit the state's English-only instruction mandate in public schools on the 2016 ballot.

Under his leadership as Chair of the Latino Caucus, the legislature passed AB60 to allow undocumented Californians to obtain driver's licenses. In the summer of 2014, he organized a fact-finding delegation to visit the Central American unaccompanied minors being held in Ventura County and was instrumental in securing \$3 million to be directed toward non-profit organizations providing legal representation to these children.

Ricardo's record in public service has been recognized at the local, state and national levels. President Barack Obama awarded him a "Champion of Change" at the White House and *The Los Angeles Times* named Ricardo the "Point man in the push for immigrant rights" in California. Upon winning his election in 2012, he made history by becoming the first openly gay person of color elected to the California Senate.

Ricardo earned his B.A. in Journalism and Spanish with a minor in Chicano Studies from San Diego State University.

Tweets from @SenRicardoLara

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ICYMI: CA sets strongest climate goals in N. America. Release bit.ly/2cd4KNk. Video bit.ly/2cdNBWf



09 Sep



Ricardo Lara
@senricardolara

Proud to stand with my Senate and Assembly colleagues at the signing ceremony for [#SB32](#) & [#AB197](#) [#ActOnClimate](#) [#CaLeg](#)

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CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5050
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

PHONE: (916) 651-4033

FAX: (916) 651-4933

HUNTINGTON PARK DISTRICT OFFICE

6550 MILES AVE., 2ND FLOOR
HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255

PHONE: 323-277-4560

FAX: 323-277-4528

LONG BEACH DISTRICT OFFICE

3939 ATLANTIC AVE., SUITE 107
LONG BEACH, CA 90807

PHONE: 562-256-7921

FAX: 562-256-9991

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