COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

RICARDO**LARA**

STATE SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA'S 33RD DISTRICT

Second Quarter 2015

Senator Lara with Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de Leon in the Capitol announcing the $40 million agreement.

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Senator Lara Leads Charge to Secure $40 Million for Health4All Kids in Budget

I am happy to report that we secured $40 million to expand Medi-Cal to cover all kids in California, regardless of immigration status!

As you know, expanding access to health care is one of my top legislative priorities. I was infuriated when I heard stories about kids who were denied access to preventative care because of where they were born. That is not consistent with California values and I knew something had to be done. That's why I introduced Senate Bill 4, the Health for All Act.

We know that disease doesn't discriminate against immigration status and that we're all better off when everyone is healthy.

Now, we are closer to achieving that goal.

While we celebratae this milestone achievement, we're haven't crossed the finish line yet. I am committed to continuing my work on this important issue to ensure that everyone in California has the care they need to live healthy lives.

This is a proud day for California and for anyone who believes that no one should go without the care they need.

I hope you'll join me as I continue working to ensure that "health for all" is no longer a rallying cry...but a reality.

- Ricardo

Young Senators Get Civics Lesson at the California State Capitol

The Young Senator's Program is designed to provide high school students with unique opportunities that yield insights about potential career and educational paths. This month, the Young Senators visited Sacramento and Silicon Valley to learn about the legislative process and the state's booming tech industry.

The Young Senators participated in a mock committee hearing where they debated legislation currently being considered in the legislature. They discussed some of this year's high profile legislation and engaged in meaningful debate.

Students met with state legislators, toured the State Capitol and visited my office and staff. They concluded the tour by visiting the Senate Chambers where we discussed the importance of civic engagement. Several legislators from both houses stopped by to greet the Young Senators and discuss their experiences in public service.

The Young Senators then took to the road and traveled to UC Berkeley, one of our state's premiere public universities to learn about college opportunities.

They continued their educational excursion to Silicon Valley for an Information Technology Session where students toured the headquarters of Google. The company hosted a panel presentation for the students, underscoring the types of jobs and opportunities available at technology companies.

For over half of the students, this trip was their first time on a plane and for nearly three quarters, the first time they visited Northern California. I am glad to provide these young leaders and opportunity to learn about their state and how they can play a role in shaping its future.

Cudahy's Clara St. Park Dedicated to Senator Ricardo Lara in June

The City of Cudahy honored Sen. Ricardo Lara with a plaque in Clara St. Park.

Sen. Lara's vigilance in ensuring that cities in Southeast LA were granted additional time to complete unfinished park projects was a crucial component of the Clara St. Park Expansion. This expansion resulted in the planting of new trees throughout the park, improved landscaping, a new walking path, and the addition of five new picnic areas and exercise stations.

Sen. Lara was joined at the dedication by Assemblyman Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) and a representative from Rep. Roybal-Allard's (D-CA 40) office.

Of the recognition, Senator Lara said: "*It is so rewarding to see our collective efforts manifest into this incredible public space that families will use for years to come. This is a major win for my constituents in Cudahy!*"

Honoring Women of Distinction in the 33rd Senate District

Every year we celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding women who exemplify leadership in business, government, education, and community service. These noteworthy women improve the quality of life in their respective communities and I am proud that a number of them call the 33rd State Senate district home.

These courageous individuals are leaders in the fight to combat income inequality and social injustice. Check out the full list of 2015-2016 Women of Distinction Honorees from the 33rd State Senate District:

Women of Distinction Honorees:

Woman of the Year – Michelle Molina
Long Beach –District 1 – Martha Cota
Young Leader – Chrysanthe Tan
Long Beach –District 2 – Juana Melara
City of Bell - Ana Torres
Long Beach –District 3 - Marsha Naify
Bell Gardens- Josephina Blancas
Long Beach –District 4 – Nary Loeung
Cudahy – Edith Cabezas
Long Beach –District 5 – Lucy Johnson
Huntington Park –Gloria Rodriguez
Long Beach –District 6 – Lois Irving
Lynwood – Jacqueline Espinoza
Long Beach –District 7 – Linda S. Kerr
Maywood – Lilia Mariscal
Long Beach –District 8 – Michelle Jouvence
Paramount – Marcelina Bridges
Long Beach –District 9 – Sabrina Sanders
Signal Hill – Debra Montalvo Russell
Florence/Firestone/Walnut Park – Karina Castro
Vernon – Alma Arredondo
Lakewood – Linda Manis
South Gate – Velma Davis

ANOTHER **BALANCED** AND **ON-TIME** CA BUDGET!

15,000 MORE CA STUDENTS AT UC AND CSU

$409 MILLION *ReInvestment in* EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

REINVEST IN CRITICAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

$380 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF FOR 2 MILLION CALIFORNIANS

Governor Brown signed the 2015-2016 State Budget! Here's an overview of the budget highlights:

Health for All
For the first time ever, the budget invests $40 million in ALL of California's children by extending healthcare coverage to approximately 170,000 immigrant children.

A Responsible and Prudent Budget
The budget puts an unprecedented $4.6 billion into the state's rainy day fund and reserve while dedicating more than $1.9 billion to paying of debt.

Largest Investment in Education Ever
The budget prioritizes education funding, the best investment in California's future. It invests more than $68 billion, the highest level of funding in the history of California. That means more than $10,000 per pupil – an increase of 15% in just two years.

More Opportunity to Attend College
The budget makes targeted investments in UC and CSU to allow 15,000 more students to attend and graduate on-time. The $216 million increase to the CSU is the largest investment in over a decade. It also restores CalGrant eligibility at private non-profit schools and provides more than 3,000 additional competitive Cal-Grant awards.

Drought Response
The budget contains an additional $2 billion to reduce the impacts of the drought, including investments in water conservation, recycled water, stormwater capture and money for food and housing assistance in the most affected regions.

A Commitment to Early Care and Education
The budget expands access to quality care that supports the educational development of children by creating more than 13,000 additional child care slots.

Counteracting the Effects of Poverty
The Legislative budget creates the state's first Earned Income Tax Credit to assist the lowest-income workers. This new credit will provide $380 million in tax relief to 2 million Californians.

100 Convene in Capitol for Cambodian Genocide Remembrance Week

In May, I was proud to introduce Senate Resolution 21 to commemorate the suffering and loss of the Cambodian people during the Cambodian genocide 40 years ago.

Senate Resolution 21 declares April 13 through 17 Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week in California and will honor those who died, as well as survivors and their descendants, for their courage and contribution to our state and country.

Over 100 members of the Cambodian community from across the state joined me on this somber occasion.

Cambodians are living examples of just how resilient our human spirit is and exemplify our will to survive and prosper. It is fitting that on the Cambodian New Year we remind the country and world what took place only a generation ago.

The Cambodian Genocide was carried out by the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot between 1975 and 1979. An estimated one and half to three million people were killed. The Khmer Rouge implemented policies of forced relocation, torture, mass executions, forced labor and other brutal policies that annihilated a quarter of the total population.

Anthony Kim, President of the Cambodian American Business Association, noted that the genocide has left an emotional scar on thousands of Cambodians.

Senator Lara Appointed to Prominent NALEO Board of Directors

In June, Senator Lara was appointed to the prominent Board of Directors of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, or NALEO.

NALEO is the nation's leading nonprofit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.

Senator Lara hopes to share California's groundbreaking legislation with his colleagues across the country to develop innovative ways to address issues impacting the Latino community, including immigration reform, access to education and creating jobs.

Senator also congratulates Santa Ana City Councilwoman Michele Martinez for being elected president!

SCOTUS Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage During Historic Pride Month

In a historic ruling on June 26, the Supreme Court of the United States declared that all lesbian and gay Americans had the Constitutional right to marry! In California we've celebrated this right since June 2013, but now, from coast to coast, our brothers and sisters will be afforded the same chance at expressing their love.

Pride Month
Since June 2009, the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and the LGBT community as a whole, have been officially recognized by a presidential proclamation. This month-long observance of LGBT history and gay pride has gained momentum with various pride parades, parties and workshops held in numerous cities throughout the country. One of the state's largest Pride celebrations happens right here in the 33rd Senate District: Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride!

History
It was on June 29, 1969 that a heated riot by members and supporters of the LGBT community occurred when police raided The Stonewall Inn, "a gay bar," in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. The riot, and its aftermath, is regarded as the single most important event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for gay and lesbian rights in the country.

Capitol Commemoration
The California LGBT Caucus honored leaders from the LGBT community during Assembly and Senate Floor Session. I was proud to author Senate Resolution 33, along with Senator Mark Leno from San Francisco, declaring June LGBT Pride month in the Senate. I was proud to recognize Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia as my honoree from the 33rd Senate District.

Mayor Garcia has done a tremendous job in his short time in office - and he has been a role model for LGBT youth. As the youngest person ever, first immigrant and first member of the LGBT community, Mayor Garcia has broken many glass ceilings and is leading by example.

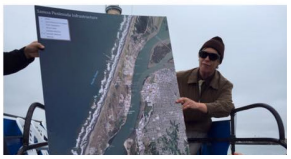
Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival
Over the past several years, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration has become one of the premiere Pride events nationwide now attracting over 80,000 participants over two days. This year, I was proud to participate in celebrating Long Beach's LGBT community during the parade, joined by community leaders and activists.

As the first openly gay person of color elected to the California State Senate and a proud member of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus, I was proud to join constituents from Long Beach and throughout the 33rd Senate Districts in celebrating LGBT pride during this important time in American civil rights history!

Senator Lara led a fabulous float in the Long Beach Gay Pride Parade in May

Mayor Robert Garcia was Senator Lara's Gay Pride honoree.

Senator Lara welcomes Porterville Mayor Gurrola to the Pride Parade celebration.



Senator Lara Launches "Keeping CA Ports Competitive" Tour

Senator Lara is a champion for California's ports as the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement. In this role, the Senator is working across California to identify best practices for mega and niche ports to ensure that they have the support from the state to keep them operating smoothly.

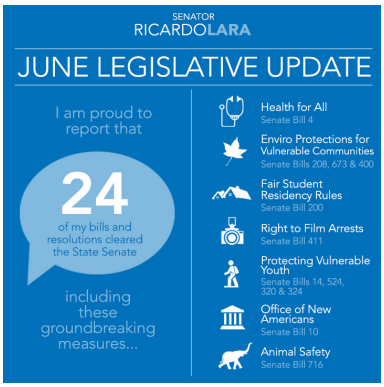
That's why Senator Lara kicked off his "Keeping California Ports Competitive" statewide tour and is meeting with port executives, workers and officials from San Diego to Long Beach to Humboldt County.

In May, he kicked off the ports tour by holding a hearing at the Port of Long Beach in his district. While there, he met with Jon Slangerup, the Long Beach Port Executive Director, and several officials who dedicate themselves to keeping this major facility working.

In July, Senator Lara was joined by his colleagues Senator Connie Leyva and Senator Mike McGuire during his visit of the Port of Humboldt Bay.

Senator Lara recognizes that California ports keep the U.S. - and world - moving. That's why he is committed to helping ports thrive for years to come.

24 of Senator Lara's Bills and Resolutions Move Forward in June



In June, 24 resolutions and pieces of legislation I authored advanced in the State Senate!

My legislative package tackles some groundbreaking work focused on economic prosperity, advancing justice for kids, working to get healthcare for undocumented Californians, creating a state office to help integrate immigrants, protecting vulnerable communities from pollution, and stopping animal abuse.

We are one step closer to Health for All, allowing students to attend school where their live-in parents work and protecting elephants by banning ivory and bullhooks.

For the first time, the devastating human impact of the Cambodian Genocide has been recognized, and civilians will be further protected when recording the activities of public safety officers.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, would you like assistance from my offfice or would simply like more information on legislation I am working on, please feel free to email my office directly. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

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