



RICARDO LARA

STATE SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA'S 33RD DISTRICT



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Celebrating Women's History Month and Spearheading National Statue of Sally Ride

I was proud to kickoff Women's History Month in March by holding a press conference to launch Senate Joint Resolution 4, my measure to place a statue of astronaut Sally Ride in the U.S. Statuary Hall.

Sally Ride made history on June 18, 1983 when she became the first American female astronaut and youngest person to soar into space when she traveled aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Sally is a California native, American hero and stratospheric trailblazer who devoted her life to pushing the limits of space and inspiring young girls to succeed in math and science careers.

That is why I believe it is important to commemorate her by placing a statue in her honor in the U.S. Statuary Hall. She would be the first female statue to represent California and would be the first member of the LGBT community to be placed in the Statuary Hall. Each state is allowed to send two statues

of prominent figures who have made an extraordinary impact. Currently, there are statues of Father Junipero Serra and President Ronald Reagan representing California.

"Sally is a California native, American hero and stratospheric trailblazer who devoted her life to pushing the limits of space and inspiring young girls to succeed in math and science careers."

Joining me at the press conference were over 30 students from Sally Ride Elementary School, Lorri Jean of the LA LGBT Center, Sally's sister Bear Ride and Astronaut Wendy Lawrence.

The resolution was approved by the California State Senate and now heads to the California Assembly for consideration.

PHOTO ESSAY: Recognizing African American Heritage at Senator Lara's 4th Annual Gospel Brunch in Lynwood

Each year, I'm proud to unite community, faith and elected leaders to celebrate African American Heritage month at my Annual Gospel Brunch. Held at Bateman Hall in Lynwood, the 4th Annual event was a huge success with over 400 community members in attendance.

I was honored to welcome Attorney General Kamala Harris as a special guest where she discussed the importance of uniting

African American and Latino communities and reforming our criminal justice system. Setting the tone with great song and dance, local church choirs and performers treated the audience with soulful performances. I would like to express a special thank you to the City of Lynwood, the Lynwood Unified School District and the Lynwood Bingo Club for making this year's Gospel Brunch a success. I look forward to seeing you all next year as we continue this tradition.





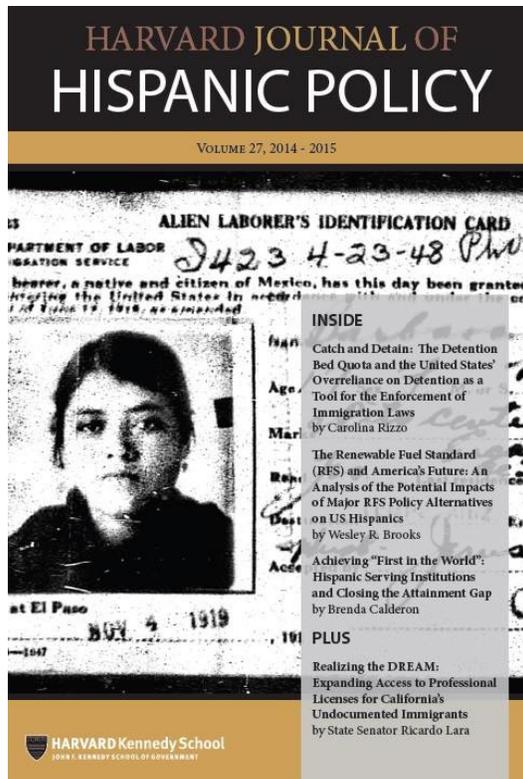
UCLA and Senator Lara Host South Gate Immigration Roundtable

With immigration at the forefront of the national political dialogue, California has continuously led on immigrant integration legislation. I've been thrilled to author some of the state's most forward-looking bills that make education, professional licenses and health care more accessible to California immigrants.

To discuss California's strides in immigration reform, I was honored to partner with UCLA to host a community roundtable discussion in South Gate with over 100 members of the community. A special thank you to Marcelo Suarez-Orozco of UCLA,

Eliseo Medina of SEIU, Sonia Campos-Rivera of the LA Chamber of Commerce and Claudia Botero of Univision for making the conversation a success! We covered a range of issues from the new AB60 law to the California DREAM Loan Program.

A special thank you to the community organizations who co-sponsored the event and provided information to the community members in attendance. I look forward to continuing my work on pro-immigrant legislation in the coming legislative session.



Senator Lara Published in the 2015 Edition of the Harvard Journal on Hispanic Policy

In 2014 I authored and the Governor signed SB 1159 - a first-in-the-nation legislation which expanded access to professional licenses for all Californians, regardless of immigration status. This bill will encourage entrepreneurs and drive new economic activity.

I am proud that the Harvard Journal on Hispanic Policy accepted my submission for their 2014-2015 volume titled "Realizing the DREAM: Expanding Access to Professional Licenses for California's Undocumented Immigrants."

I was additionally honored to be invited to speak on a panel at the Harvard Latino Law, Policy & Business Conference on a panel to discuss Local Innovations in Integrating Latino Communities.





Governor Implements Mandatory Water Restrictions in California

On April 1, Governor Jerry Brown called for the first statewide mandatory water restrictions, instructing urban water agencies to reduce water usage by 25 percent. The announced actions will save water, increase enforcement to prevent wasteful water use, streamline the state's drought response and invest in new technologies that will make California more drought resilient.

In mid-March, legislative leaders introduced a \$1 billion package to expedite bond funding to make the state more resilient to the disastrous effects of climate change and help ensure that all Californians have access to local water supplies. The emergency drought package:

- Accelerates \$128 million in expenditures from the budget to provide direct assistance to workers and communities impacted by drought and to implement the Water Action Plan.

- Includes \$272 million in Proposition 1 Water Bond funding for safe drinking water and water recycling.

- Accelerates \$660 million from Proposition 1E for flood protection in urban and rural areas.

To learn about all the actions being taken to manage water supplies and respond to the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.Gov.

I urge each of you to be mindful of your water use as we brace for this difficult time ahead. Please remember to be waterwise and help our state get through this drought by being mindful of your and your family's water use.

Young Senators Get a Lesson in Civic Engagement and Public Service



On March 14, Senator Ricardo Lara's Young Senators participated in National Association of Latino Elected Officials' Citizenship Workshop in the City of Cudahy. The Young Senators assisted over 100 immigrants in filling out their citizenship applications and helped residents of the 33rd Senate District understand the citizenship application process.

Session 4 of the 33rd Senate District Young Senators Program took place on April 4, 2015 where students learned about California's health care industry by visiting two health care sites. Our first stop was at Clinica Monsenor Romero in Westlake, Los Angeles. The Young Senators learned about the community clinic's efforts to provide health care, health education, and community advocacy on behalf of the under-served men, women and children of Greater Los Angeles. After a presentation and tour at Clinica Romero, our students headed over to Children's Hospital Los Angeles where they took a tour of various parts of the hospital and learned from health care industry professionals. The next Young Senators session will be about Law & Society.





A Preview to Senator Lara's 2015 Legislative Priorities

With your support, last year was a milestone year for the 33rd Senate District thanks to a wide-reaching legislative package with several groundbreaking pieces of legislation. Among our legislative successes and accomplishments, we updated professional licensing rules, created the California DREAM Loan Program and strengthened California's Low Cost Auto Insurance Program. As I'm finalizing my 2015 legislative priorities, I can assure you that this year will be as impactful as last.

My 2015 legislative package focuses on improving quality of life for all Californians in the realm of education, health, child protection, water, environmental justice and immigration. Here is a preview to some of the legislation I have introduced this year:

“My legislative priorities focus on improving quality of life for all Californians in the realm of education, health, child protection, water, environmental justice and immigration.”

Education

I have introduced several pieces of legislation aimed at improving educational equity and access for some of California's most vulnerable communities, while holding our university systems accountable. Senate Constitutional Amendment 1 will ask voters to revisit the autonomy at the University of California. Senate Bill 451 would encourage school districts to adopt educational school counseling programs, defines the scope of school counseling and encourages ongoing professional development.

Health

I'm continuing my push to ensure that health care access is available to all Californians. We know that we are stronger when we are all healthy. Senate Bill 4, the Health for All Act will ensure that everyone can obtain health care, regardless of immigration status.

Child Protection

I have introduced Senate Bill 200 to clarify that a child of a live-in worker can attend school where their parent works, if their parent works there for at least three days a week. This will keep families together and ensure that our children have access education where their parents work. Additionally, I've introduced Senate Bill 524 to hold alternative youth facilities accountable against abuse, particularly for LGBT kids. Senate Bill 14 would grant the same protections for child victims of sexual abuse in civil court as those that exist in criminal court, aligning penal and civil code sections and ensuring that past sexual history isn't considered against a victim.

Water

As California is facing a drought, we must ensure that our water infrastructure is strong and stable. Senate Bill 355 will increase representation along the lower LA River on the Rivers and Mountain Conservancies Board. Senate Bill 208 will allow non-profits and disadvantaged communities to get advanced water bond funds to move projects forward.

Animal Protections

Among my priorities this year is championing legislation that will protect animals, particularly elephants. Senate Bill 716 will protect elephants from abuse by prohibiting the use of a bullhook or similar device. Additionally, I am co-authoring legislation to ban ivory to further safeguard these animals.

Senator Lara in Sacramento and Around the 33rd Senate District



CONTACT US

If you have any questions, would you like assistance from my office 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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