2017 Legislative Update

Senator Lara's legislative package focuses on expanding healthcare, fighting for the rights of all Californians, protecting consumers, and reforming our criminal justice system to make California safer and more fair.

Senator Lara also helped to win nearly $1 billion in the 2017-18 budget for clean vehicles and to reduce super pollutants – part of the largest clean air investment in California's history.

These are some of Senator Lara's legislative accomplishments:

Fight for California

Dignity Not Detention (Senate Bill 29)
Prohibits California local governments from entering into new contracts or extending contracts with for-profit companies to detain immigrants, makes for-profit immigration detention facilities subject to the California Public Records Act, and requires public comment if ICE seeks to expand detention.

Religious Freedom Act (Senate Bill 31)
Prevents California agencies from sharing data that could be used to compile a federal registry based on religion, national origin or ethnicity.

Education

Expanding In-State Tuition (Senate Bill 68)
Improves the landmark AB 540 law by extending in-state tuition at California public universities to community college and nontraditional students.

School Access for Exiled Students (Senate Bill 257)
Protects the education of California students exiled out of state because of the forced departure of a parent, most often by deportation.

Equity and Justice

Sens. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) and Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) today introduced a package of bills to keep young children out of the juvenile justice system and fix longstanding inequity for youth and adults.

SB 180 – Drug Sentence Enhancements
Takes a step toward enacting the bipartisan movement to end wasteful incarceration spending in favor of community reinvestment.

SB 190 – Juvenile Fees
Ends the harmful, unlawful and costly assessment and collection of administrative fees against families with youth in the juvenile justice system.

SB 355 – No Court Fees for the Innocent
Provides that only those who are convicted of a crime are required to reimburse the courts for legal counsel fees.

SB 393 – Sealing of arrests
Seals arrest records and remove barriers to employment for those arrested but not convicted of a crime.

SB 394 – Juveniles Life Without the Possibility of Parole
Brings California into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Montgomery v. Louisiana* decision that juveniles cannot be sentenced to life without parole.

SB 395 – Miranda Rights for Youth
Requires youth age 15 or younger consult with legal counsel before they waive their constitutional rights in interrogations with police.

Consumer Protection

Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017 (SB 258)
Requires detailed ingredient labels on cleaning products sold in the state. The bill will give full disclosure about what is in the products millions of families and domestic workers use every day.

Voting Rights

Prime Time Primary (Senate Bill 568)
Makes California voters and their values count in the presidential election by moving the primary from June to March.

Economic Opportunity

Insurance Agents and Broker Licenses (Senate Bill 788)
Removes barriers to access the insurance agent and insurance broker licenses, the second most enrolled profession in California.

LGBT Inclusion

Transgender Work Opportunity Act (Senate Bill 396)
Makes California the first in the nation to require training that will help transgender workers to overcome high unemployment and lack of inclusion.

Environmental Protection

Wood Smoke Reduction Program (Senate Bill 563)
Creates a statewide incentive program to help Californians transition from wood smoke heating to cleaner, healthier alternatives.

Orphan Oil and Gas Wells (Senate Bill 724)
Increases annual funding from $1 million to $3 million for programs related to the plugging of hazardous orphan oil and gas wells that can threaten public health and the environment.