Dr. Richard Pan: Our Senator Building Healthy and Safe Communities

Dr. Pan has dedicated his career to helping everyone in the community as a physician and now a legislator. As our State Senator, Dr. Pan has been working for the people of Sacramento to build healthier and safer communities. The results of Dr. Pan's first year in the State Senate are historic in both the legislature and the community.

Keeping Families Healthy

Getting Families the Help They Need
SB 947 establishes the County Option of Efficient Interviewing of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Applicants Act of 2016 and authorizes a county to conduct the interview of an applicant for CalWORKs via telephone or other electronic means in lieu of an in-person interview, unless otherwise requested by the applicant.

Saving Lives
SB 1095 requires DPH to expand statewide screening of newborns to include screening for any disease that is detectable in blood samples as soon as practicable, but no later than two years after the disease is adopted by the RUSP or enactment of this bill, whichever is later.

Strengthens California’s worker’s compensation laws
SB 1160 This bill expedites medical care at the beginning of an injured worker’s claim, modernizes data collection in the workers' compensation system, and implements anti-fraud measures in the filing and collection of liens.

Making California Healthier
Dr. Pan helped bring billions of dollars to California through Health Plan tax reform to stabilize the Medi-Cal program.

Help for Parents and Families
Along with his colleagues, Dr. Pan expanded parental leave benefits to strengthen working families.
Building a Vibrant Sacramento Region

$1.3 Billion to Sacramento
Included in the state budget is $1.3 billion that will go toward state buildings in Sacramento, proving a great boost to our local economy with added jobs. The State of California is our region's largest employer and landowner and this surge of state revenue in our area will not only boost unhealthy and unsafe government centers, but will also mean a surge of revenue to boost job growth in our area.

Jobs for Sacramento
Dr. Pan held eight workshops in community sites such as the Sam & Bonnie Pannell Center in Meadowview and the La Familia Counseling Center, in historically underrepresented areas. The workshops were free and open to the public and offered a real opportunity to people of color. Over 1,000 people attended and came away with a better understanding of how the state hiring process works and a plan on how to get started on a career in state service.

Encouraging Success
Dr. Pan hosted a special ceremony at the State Capitol to honor our region's high school and middle school graduates. The ceremony brought hundreds of graduates and their families together so each school's “Most Improved” and “Most Outstanding” student in their graduating class could be recognized.

Eyeing New Opportunities
With the opening of the new Golden 1 Center downtown, Dr. Pan and regional leaders are already looking for ways to attract new opportunity. Earlier in the year, we welcomed Major League Soccer Commissioner, Don Garber to Sacramento in hopes of attracting a Major League Soccer franchise.

Helping Our Kids Achieve

Children's Bill of Rights
On June 18th, Dr. Pan held a Town Hall to discuss the issues that children and their families face every day in our community. Parents and childcare providers shared their stories and joined an informative discussion on a variety of issues including access to high-quality childcare, early childhood education, quality health care, and much more.

Investing in our Kids
Dr. Pan was proud to support a state budget that made historic investments in K-14 education, with an increase of more than $3600 per student over the past five years.
New Opportunities at our Colleges
Dr. Pan and his colleagues also made new investments in UC and CSU to create 7,000 new higher education slots for in-state students — for a total of 20,000 since last year. They also strengthened the pipeline to state universities and colleges for all students — regardless of their economic status — by investing $200 million to better prepare our students.

Protecting Kids from Tobacco
SB 977 prohibits a person from smoking a tobacco product, as defined, within 250 feet of a youth sports event. Dr. Pan was proud to support increasing the age to purchase tobacco to 21, saving lives and reducing costs on the health care system.

Helping Children with Special Needs and Families
As Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Children with Special Needs, Dr. Pan held a hearing, titled “Examining Interagency Care Coordination for Children and Youth with Special Needs in the State of California”. Dr. Pan also released the committee’s first report, calling for integrated systems of care.

Justice for All

Ensuring Juries get Accurate and Objective Information
AB SB 1189 requires a forensic autopsy to be considered the practice of medicine and to only be conducted by a licensed physician who has expertise in forensic pathology or has been trained as a forensic pathologist.

Bringing Communities Together
Dr. Pan hosted a free Panel Discussion, “The Toll of Exclusionary Rhetoric.” He brought together community and cultural leaders to discuss how the divisive rhetoric we are exposed to takes a toll on communities.

Protecting Local Taxpayers
Tax season can be stressful for families; I worked to bring assistance to families in the Sacramento region in the form of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). VITA volunteers will help prepare federal and state taxes.
Building Strong and Safe Communities

Combating Gun Violence
SB 877 requires the State Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System (CalEVDRS) and to collect data on violent deaths.

Community Advisory Committee
Dr. Pan has assembled a community advisory committee comprised of dozens of community-based organizations and groups that represent the diversity of the 6th Senate District, including cultural leaders, labor unions, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, health care advocates, youth groups, and many more. Dr. Pan hopes to collaboratively tackle issues and solve problems and draw upon the expertise of people and groups who are on the front lines in our communities.

Protecting Veterans
SB 294 requires employers that participate in the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) to inform employees of the rights of returning veteran employees to receive CalPERS credit for their periods of active service and requires employers to provide veterans with the forms necessary to claim the service credit.

Strengthening California’s Economy for Everyone
Dr. Pan and his colleagues established the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program to create access to reliable retirement savings for 7 million Californians. California also became the first state in the nation to raise the minimum wage to $15.