

# SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE

*ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING*



## BIOGRAPHIES OF SENATORS & SPEAKERS'

March 6, 2019

California State Capitol  
Room #112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# SENATOR BIOGRAPHIES



## Senator Holly J. Mitchell

First elected to the Legislature in 2010, Senator Holly J. Mitchell represents nearly 1 million residents of the 30th Senate District, which ranges from Century City to South Los Angeles and takes in Culver City, Cheviot Hills, Crenshaw District, USC, downtown L.A. and a portion of Inglewood. A third-generation native Angeleno, Senator Mitchell is the proud daughter of career public servants and the protégé of community leaders who instilled in her a passion for service. She continued her family legacy of “firsts” when she was named the first African American to chair the powerful Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee in December 2016. Less than two months later, a profile in *The Los Angeles Times* described Senator Mitchell as “the Legislature’s moral compass.”

Senator Mitchell, the mother of a teen-age son, has devoted her professional life to creating a California where all children thrive. She has led the charge to reform the criminal and juvenile justice systems, expand access to healthcare, early care and education, foster care, secure women’s reproductive health and end the trafficking of minors. She is a passionate defender of women’s rights and the environment.



## Senator Dr. Richard Pan

First elected to the State Assembly in 2010, Senator Dr. Richard Pan strives to keep our communities safe and healthy. Senator Pan is a pediatrician, former UC Davis educator, and State Senator proudly representing Sacramento, West Sacramento, Elk Grove and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County.

TIME magazine called Senator Pan a “hero” when he authored landmark legislation to abolish non-medical exemptions to legally required vaccines for school students, thereby restoring community immunity from preventable contagions. Senator Pan also authored one of the most expansive state laws regulating health plans eliminating denials for pre-existing conditions and prohibited discrimination by health status and medical history. He demands transparency and accountability in state health programs; holding hearings on reducing fraud, investigating poor access to dental care, and ensuring children with cancer and other serious conditions have access to pediatric specialty care. Senator Pan provided leadership in enrolling families for health coverage, resulting in halving the number of uninsured in California, and he sponsored numerous health fairs providing resources including free glasses, dental screenings, and vaccines.

# SENATOR BIOGRAPHIES



## Senator Anna M. Caballero

Senator Anna M. Caballero was elected in November 2018 to the California State Senate to represent the 12th Senate District, which includes the Salinas Valley, San Benito County, Merced County and portions of Stanislaus, Madera and Fresno Counties.

Senator Caballero has a 30-year legacy of public service in her community. Her leadership has inspired generations of young leaders to work hard, and help build a strong community for the future. She has been a tireless advocate for families, farmers, veterans, workers, the disabled, seniors, and teachers. From 2010 to 2016, Senator Caballero joined Governor Edmund G. Brown's cabinet as Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Under Senator Caballero's leadership, 65 million dollars were allocated to build housing and provide services for homeless veterans and rural communities, while providing struggling families access to home refinancing assistance. During her time working with Governor Brown, Senator Caballero was the highest-ranking Latina in state government.



## Senator Patricia Bates

Senator Patricia Bates serves as the senator for the 36th District in the California State Senate since December 1, 2014, representing nearly 1 million people living in South Orange and North San Diego counties. On April 12, 2017, she became the Senate Republican Leader. She is the second woman to lead a party caucus in the Senate's history – Democrat or Republican. Prior to being elected to public service, Senator Bates was a social worker for Los Angeles County where she learned that government must not rob people of their self-esteem and initiative. Government has an important role in protecting public safety and health, but it must act within the limits placed upon it by the people. Her view is that government exists to serve the people, not the other way around.

In the Senate, she championed taxpayers by defending Proposition 13 (which limits property tax increases) from efforts to gut it and helping lead the opposition against the massive gas and car tax increase. Senator Bates has worked with Democrats to advance common goals. For example, she jointly authored SB 197 (2017) with Senator Toni Atkins and SB 1007 (2018) with Senator Robert Hertzberg to lower the cost of building needed medical facilities that would serve veterans and military personnel afflicted with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related conditions.

# SENATOR BIOGRAPHIES



## Senator Melissa Hurtado

Senator Melissa Hurtado grew up in the Central Valley. As the daughter of immigrant parents and the first in her family to graduate from college, Senator Hurtado knows firsthand what it means to achieve the American dream. That is why she is serving in the State Senate – to advocate for access to healthcare, quality schools, good paying jobs and the opportunity for a better life.

Prior to being elected to public service, Senator Hurtado was a community organizer for public employees, where she helped lead the fight for good wages, healthcare coverage and retirement security. Thereafter, she served on the Sanger city council from 2016 until her election to the Senate in November 2018. On the Sanger City Council, she helped create high-wage jobs, balanced the budget and built a reserve, all without raising taxes. In the Senate, Senator Hurtado will work across the aisle to improve the quality of life in the Valley and ensure Valley voices are heard at all levels of government.



## Senator Susan Rubio

Senator Susan Rubio was born in Juarez, Mexico and is the daughter of immigrant parents. Her father came to the United States through the Bracero program in Texas. After the program ended, her father continued working in farms and other available jobs to ensure a better future for his family, eventually settling in California. Senator Rubio's upbringing and personal family experiences taught her the importance of hard work and determination.

Senator Rubio is the product of public schools and has two decades of experience as a community leader, classroom teacher, and public servant. She was first elected to represent the City of Baldwin Park as the City Clerk, where she focused on providing transparency and protecting democracy for residents. In 2009, Senator Rubio was entrusted to be the next Councilmember, where she helped balance the city budget during the recession and protected vital programs. Senator Rubio also has a long record of volunteerism and partnership with local non-profits, providing mentorships and college scholarships for local students. Senator Rubio is a lifelong champion for children, working families, economic justice and the environment.

# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## **Chet P. Hewitt**

**President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation**

Chet P. Hewitt is President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and its nonprofit intermediary, The Center. Since beginning his tenure at Sierra Health, Mr. Hewitt has led a bold collective impact strategy focused on promoting health equity in underserved communities and improving the well-being of child and youth populations. Known for his willingness to take thoughtful risk, Mr. Hewitt has received national attention for his emphasis on making the foundation's partnerships with local communities throughout California the centerpiece of Sierra Health's strategy for change.

Prior to joining Sierra Health Foundation, Mr. Hewitt held several senior positions including Director of Alameda County's Social Services Agency, Associate Director for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, and Director at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco. Mr. Hewitt has received numerous awards for his service to children and families, including the Terrance Keenan Leadership in Health Philanthropy Award, and is an Annie E. Casey Children and Families Leadership Fellow. He serves on several boards including REDF, Public Policy Institute of California, Advance Peace and CalNonprofits.



## **Margot Kushel, M.D.**

**Professor of Medicine and Medical Doctor, UCSF**

Margot Kushel, MD is the Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations, a Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, and a faculty affiliate of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies. Ms. Kushel's research focuses on the causes and consequences of homelessness and housing instability, with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness, and ameliorating the effects of homelessness on health.

Ms. Kushel has conducted research on the causes and consequences of homelessness and evaluations of novel interventions for 20 years. Ms. Kushel's research seeks to inform clinical practice, programs and policies. She holds multiple grants from the NIH and large foundations. She maintains an active clinical practice at the Richard Fine People's Clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and attends on the inpatient medicine service. She speaks at a local, state and national level about issues of homelessness, provides testimony to legislative bodies, and speaks to the press. She received her AB from Harvard College, her MD from Yale and completed residency, chief residency and fellowship in internal medicine at UCSF.

# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## **Shamus Roller**

**Executive Director, National Housing Law Project**

Shamus Roller has been the Executive Director of the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) since 2016. NHLP is a national legal and advocacy center working to strengthen and enforce the rights of tenants, increase housing opportunities for underserved communities, and preserve and expand the nation's supply of safe and affordable homes. Before joining NHLP, Mr. Roller served as the Executive Director of Housing California, a statewide advocacy organization working on issues of housing and homelessness.

During his time at Housing California the organization's advocacy led to over five billion dollars in new funding for affordable development and a host of new programs and policies. He helped start the Residents United Network, which organizes residents in affordable developments. Previous to that he was the Executive Director of the Sacramento Housing Alliance, a regional housing and homelessness advocacy organization. He started his career running street outreach programs for youth experiencing homelessness and ran a meditation and yoga program for incarcerated youth. He serves on the board of directors of Brilliant Corners and as the board president of the California Association of Nonprofits.



## **Elder Toni McNeil**

**Community Organizer, Faith in the Valley of the San Joaquin County**

Toni McNeil is a mother of four, native of Stockton, and an ordained Elder at Victory in Praise Church where she currently serves as the Director of their Social Justice Ministry. She has held various ministry positions and developed programs such as "Train up a Child" and "Moving Forward" to help bridge the gap between church and community.

Ms. McNeil is currently employed as a full-time Community Organizer with Faith in the Valley of the San Joaquin County where she works with various Clergy, Congregations, and Community members on issues such as Housing, Food Insecurities, and the Live Free campaign- which is Principled Policing through H.E.A.T. work, Restorative Justice, and Gun Violence Reduction. Ms. McNeil has a strong passion for healing and empowerment within communities of color through the means of active listening, training, education, and revealing of truth and power structures through research. She enjoys motivational speaking, group facilitating, and training at events and is especially skilled in the areas of Advocacy and Leadership Development.

# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## **William Lehman**

**Youth Coordinated Entry Systems Manager, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)**

Will Lehman has worked in the public service and non profit sectors for more than 10 years focused on designing and delivering on solutions for youth. Mr. Lehman's experience in social services, public administration, policy, and non profit leadership has focused on designing system, community, and program-level strategies for: (1) improving outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and (2) making youth homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. He currently serves as the Youth Coordinated Entry System (CES) Manager at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), providing leadership over the implementation and enhancement of LA County's homelessness response system for youth and young adults (Youth CES).

Mr. Lehman worked in LAHSA's Policy Unit prior to his current role, and was Director of a short-term residential program for minors in the LA County child welfare system prior to his arrival at LAHSA. He began his career at the YMCA in Minneapolis first as a community-based case manager working with youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and later as a Program Director overseeing community programs serving youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness.



## **Alexander "Sasha" Harnden**

**Housing Policy Advocate, Western Center on Law and Poverty**

Alexander "Sasha" Harnden is a Housing Policy Advocate with the Western Center on Law & Poverty. Mr. Harnden's work focuses on landlord-tenant issues, tenant rights and affordable housing. Prior to joining the Western Center, Mr. Harnden worked at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, where he worked on a range of issues related to housing on behalf of low-income tenants, including eviction defense, fair housing and housing discrimination, environmental justice, subsidized housing programs, equitable development and community benefits.

Mr. Harnden has worked to address these issues through direct legal services provided to low-income tenants, community education, leadership development, and technical assistance performed in partnership with local community-based organizations and coalitions, impact litigation, and local policy work.

# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## **Ann Hollingshead**

**Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst Office**

Ann Hollingshead is a senior fiscal and policy analyst for the Legislative Analyst's Office, the nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisors to the California Legislature. She covers the overall condition of the state General Fund, including budget reserves, and federal funding to the state. In her budget assignment, Ms. Hollingshead also covers the State Controller's Office, which operates the Property Tax Postponement program.