

# SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE

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



## BIOGRAPHIES OF SENATORS & SPEAKERS

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Fresno City Hall  
2600 Fresno St.  
Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

# Senate Select Committee on the Social Determinants of Children's Well-Being

The social determinants of health are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Children's well-being is increasingly linked to the social determinants. For example, nearly a quarter of young children in California live in poverty—a fact that has profound educational, health, and economic repercussions now and in the long term in that they create inequities that are unfair, but that could be mitigated. For the scope of the Committee's work, we are defining children to include young adults up to age 26.

The Select Committee was formed in February 2019 and will be active through the two-year legislative session. The bipartisan Select Committee members will be tasked with presiding over hearings that focus on specific social determinants of health that drive negative outcomes such as housing and homelessness, health access, immigration, poverty and the safety net, land use, and education. The Committee seeks to understand challenges in the current systems with the various determinants and consider ways to improve outcome for children. The geographic focus of the work will be on areas with high poverty rates that is inclusive, but not limited to: Los Angeles, the San Joaquin Valley, the Inland Empire, the Central Coast, and Northern Border/Tribal Lands.

The Committee will study and make recommendations promoting the health of children in California. These recommendations will be posted on the Select Committee's website. To learn more, please visit <https://childwellbeing.senate.ca.gov/content/2019-20-hearings>.

# 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 includes Culver City, Cheviot Hills, Crenshaw District, University of Southern California, 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, increase early care and education access, increase CalWORKS grants, improve 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 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 Patricia Bates

Senator Patricia Bates serves as the senator for the 36th District since December 1, 2014, representing nearly 1 million people living in South Orange and North San Diego counties. 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.

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 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 Dr. Richard Pan

First elected to the State Assembly in 2010, Senator Dr. Richard Pan represents Sacramento, West Sacramento, Elk Grove and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Senator Pan is a pediatrician and former UC Davis educator.

TIME magazine called Senator Pan a “hero” for authoring landmark legislation to abolish non-medical exemptions to legally required vaccines for school students, thereby restoring community immunity from preventable contagions. He 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 reducing the number of uninsured in California to a half. He has sponsored numerous health fairs with resources such as free glasses, dental screenings, and vaccines.



## Senator Susan Rubio

Senator Susan Rubio was born in Juarez, Mexico and is the daughter of immigrant parents. Her father came to the U.S. through the Bracero program in Texas. After the program ended, her father continued working in farms and other 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 a 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



## **Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH**

**Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency**

Dr. Mark Ghaly was appointed Secretary of the California Health and Human Services by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. In this role, Dr. Ghaly will oversee California's largest agency which includes many key departments that are integral to supporting the implementation of the Governor's vision to expand health coverage and access to all Californians. Dr. Ghaly will work across state government, along with county, city, and private sector partners, to ensure the most vulnerable Californians have access to the resources and services they need to lead healthy, happy, and productive lives.

Dr. Ghaly was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He earned dual B.A. degrees in biology and biomedical ethics from Brown University, his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School, and his M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Ghaly completed his residency training in Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Ghaly is married to Christina Ghaly and has four young children.

Dr. Ghaly is honored to serve Governor Gavin Newsom and looks forward to forging partnerships and relationships across California to make the Governor's vision a reality for the benefit of all Californians.



## **Janet M. Coffman, MPP, PhD**

**Professor, Healthforce Center and the Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco**

Dr. Janet M. Coffman is a Professor at the Healthforce Center and the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. She has authored numerous publications on supply and demand for health professionals, access to health professionals, and strategies for improving the geographic distribution and racial/ethnic diversity of health professionals in California and the United States. Professor Coffman recently served as a consultant to the California Future Health Workforce Commission, whose recommendations drew upon her previous research on California's primary care and behavioral health workforce needs. Professor Coffman received a Master's degree in Public Policy and a PhD in Health Services and Policy Analysis from the University of California, Berkeley.



## **Katherine A. Flores, MD**

**Director, University of California, San Francisco, Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research  
UC San Francisco, Associate Clinical Professor**

Dr. Katherine Flores was born into an immigrant Mexican family in Fresno, California, and worked as a migrant farmworker for the first 16 years of her life. She received her undergraduate degree at Stanford University, her medical degree from the University of California, Davis and completed her family residency training at the University of California, San Francisco Fresno program. Since then, she has spent her professional career as a family physician in private practice within an all-woman, bilingual medical group in Fresno, which serves families from widely varying economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Dr. Flores is also an Associate Clinical Professor in Family Medicine at the UCSF School of Medicine and the Director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research (LaCMER). The LaCMER is a unit of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program located in California's Central San Joaquin Valley. The overall mission of LaCMER is to work with disadvantaged students and help prepare them to become healthcare professionals who will ultimately return to the Central Valley to provide culturally competent healthcare to the medically underserved.



## **Karla Au Yeung, MD**

**Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Valley Children's Healthcare**

Board certified in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology, Dr. Karla Au Yeung joined Valley Children's as the pediatric program director for the new Valley Children's pediatric residency program and as a pediatric gastroenterologist in April 2016. Her areas of special interest in gastroenterology include pediatric aerodigestive problems, including gastroesophageal reflux disease affecting respiratory and feeding conditions in children, eosinophilic esophagitis, esophageal motility disorders, and congenital esophageal disorders such as esophageal atresia.

She has presented on topics in her field across the country and published in peer-reviewed publications such as "Ambulatory Pediatrics," "Clinical Pediatrics," and "Journal of the American Medical Association, Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery."



## **Sandra Celedon**

**Chief Executive Officer, Fresno Building Healthy Communities**

Sandra Celedon is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Fresno Building Healthy Communities – a coalition of community members and community based organization working to create One Healthy Fresno - and is responsible for guiding and supporting multi-sector, diverse stakeholder collaboration in order to foster and encourage thriving communities where all children and families can live healthy, safe, and productive lives.

Prior to joining Fresno Building Healthy Communities, Sandra served as a program manager at Clinica Sierra Vista in Fresno where she developed a number of public health programs with special focus on prevention and primary care access.

Ms. Celedon adheres to the public health principles which recognize that all people must have access to the resources necessary for health and that people and their physical environment are interdependent; when one is damaged, it will have an adverse effect on the other. This is why she dedicates herself to building healthy communities.



## **Lang Fang, MA, LCSW**

**Program Manager, Neighborhood Resource Center at The Fresno Center**

Lang Fang is the Program Manager of the Neighborhood Resource Center at The Fresno Center. Ms. Fang is originally from San Diego gaining both her MA in Counseling and Education and Masters in Social Work from San Diego State. She feels passionate about providing mental health services to the Hmong community, which has brought her to the Living Well Center (LWC) at The Fresno Center. LWC provides linguistically and culturally congruent services for Southeast Asians to better meet their unique needs.

Ms. Fang has served many roles in her years in nonprofit work since her college years ranging from cultural broker, case manager, advocate, educator, mentor, clinician, and now as program manager. She is committed to seeing a healthy vibrant Fresno community and works diligently towards it.



## **Leslie Martinez**

**Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**

Leslie Martinez is a Policy Advocate based in the Fresno office of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA). LCJA works alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place.

Ms. Martinez hails from a small town in Tulare County; she is familiar with the issues facing rural San Joaquin Valley communities.

Leslie graduated from University of California Berkeley, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Public Policy. She leads policy advocacy and community organizing in Fresno County, and her state advocacy portfolio centers around equitable energy, affordable housing, and just land use practices.



## **América Hernández**

**Social Services Coordinator, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)**

América Hernández is an immigrant from Mexico who was raised in the Central Valley. As an undocumented student with limited opportunities, she worked hard to pursue her dreams of going to college. She graduated early from high school at the age of 16 and attended Fresno State from 2000 to 2003. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Chicano and Latin American Studies and has a Minor in English and another in Spanish. Although she obtained a professional degree it was not until 2012 that America was permitted to work and use her degree under President Obama's Deferred Action program.

Presently, América works with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) as a Social Services Coordinator to ensure that unaccompanied immigrant children in the Central Valley are able to access essential services and resources. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid and is Trauma Informed Certified by the Community Resilience Initiative. America is also a giving member of the Central Valley Latino Giving Circle Network, which is a philanthropist group that invests in Latino led organizations that serve our communities. She has also collaborated with other Dreamer Leaders of the Central Valley on creating a venue for undocumented youth to be involved in the civic process, despite not being able to vote, by helping to educate and empower eligible voters.