



CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE
WOMEN'S
CAUCUS



Senator
Connie M. Leyva
CHAIR



Assemblymember
Monique Limón
VICE CHAIR

2020
AGENDA

A Stronger California

Securing Greater Opportunities for Women

POLICY PRIORITIES

SB 493	JACKSON	Sexual harassment and assault impede a student's right to receive an education free of sex-based discrimination. SB 493 would require institutions of higher education to implement policies and processes to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and violence, including notice and posting requirements and transparent procedures for investigating complaints to ensure a fair and equitable process for all parties.
SB 1399	DURAZO	The Garment Worker Protection Act would expand wage theft liability in the garment manufacturing industry, ensuring that retailers cannot use layers of contracting to avoid responsibility under the law.
AB 1927	BOERNER HORVATH	The Sexual Assault Victims Amnesty would encourage reporting of sexual assault by granting immunity to victims or witnesses that may have been involved in unlawful possession or consumption of drugs or alcohol during the offense.
ACA 5	WEBER	The California Act for Economic Prosperity will allow California voters to remove an outdated and antiquated law that restricts local and state leaders from minimizing inequality and promoting economic fairness. This measure seeks to prevent continued discrimination against women and people of color by allowing gender, racial and ethnic diversity to be considered as one of many factors in public employment, public contracting and public education.



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BUDGET PRIORITY

The Legislative Women's Caucus has been the only caucus to prioritize access to affordable and quality child care for over two decades. While the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted for many why child care providers are critical, the Caucus has long recognized them and the services they provide as essential to the economic infrastructure of our state. If parents do not have a safe place to leave their children, they cannot work.

The Caucus is advocating for a rejection of a proposed 10% reduction to provider rates, as well as implementation of a new rate structure that will ultimately help all providers recover at the same pace, and at an amount that reflects the cost of doing business in California.

Furthermore, we advocate to preserve as many child care centers as possible, while expanding access to Alternative Payment vouchers that provide the greatest flexibility for families.

At the start of the 2019-2020 legislative session, the California Legislative Women's Caucus had increased its membership to 36 members. By the end of 2019, the Caucus had reached a historic high of 38 women. It is one of the largest women's caucuses in the nation. Of the 38 members, there are 15 women in the Senate and 23 women in the Assembly. Within the membership, 32 are Democrats and 6 are Republicans.

In sharp contrast to the first women's caucus in 1985, many of today's elected women serve as Chairs and Vice Chairs of Senate and Assembly policy committees, as well as, three of the four top leadership positions in both houses. In a historic move, the Senate elected in 2017 its first woman President pro Tempore: Senator Toni G. Atkins. She works alongside Senate Minority Leader Senator Shannon Grove and Assembly Minority Leader Assemblywoman Marie Waldron. Women continue to break barriers in the Legislature through their own personal stories of triumph in elective office.