Education & Workforce Development Council
Friday, November 8, 2019
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
   Tamika Lang, Boeing Company, Council Chair

2. Introduction of Topic
   David Rattray, Executive Vice President, L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

3. Informational Items – Facilitated by David Rattray
   - CA Undocumented Higher Education Coalition, Support Letter for SB 354
   - Ed Source, For better or worse, school construction bond on March 2020 ballot will be Prop. 13
   - Ed Source, Should non-citizens vote in Los Angeles school board elections?
   - National Immigration Law Center, “Home is Here” Campaign Letter

4. Introduction of Speaker
   Deane Leavenworth, Leavenworth Endeavors, Council Co-Chair

5. Remarks – CA Senator Maria Elena Durazo, 24th Senate District

6. Q&A – Facilitated by David Rattray
Senator Maria Elena Durazo
CA’s 24th Senate District

Maria Elena was born the seventh child in a family of eleven children to migrant worker parents. Growing up, María Elena traveled with her family, following the crops throughout California and Oregon, and experiencing the exploitative conditions and hardships that migrant laborers suffer.

In spite of these obstacles, María Elena attended St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California, and graduated in 1975. In college she became involved in the Chicano Movement at the urging of her older brother. Then she entered the labor movement as an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (later called UNITE, the Union of Needle trades, Industrial and Textile Employees).

While working as a union organizer, she pursued an education in law at the People’s College of Law and earned her degree in 1985.

By 1987, María Elena was ready to lead a drive by the rank and file of HERE Local 11 to make the union more responsive to its majority-Latino membership. The organizing drive successfully instituted a shop steward system that educated the rank and file on their rights, workers were now able to participate in negotiating their union contracts and all meetings and publications were from then on bilingual.

In 2004, she became the Executive Vice President of UNITE-HERE International, the organization made up of the UNITE and HERE unions which had merged.

In 2008, María Elena Durazo served as the Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee and as National Co-Chair of the Barack Obama Presidential Campaign.

From 2006 through 2014, she was the first woman Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, the second largest labor council in the country and served on the National AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Besides her union work, María Elena has served on many civic commissions and boards. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley appointed her to the Los Angeles Commission on Airports, Mayor Richard Riordan appointed her to the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Committee and she has also served on the California State Coastal Commission.

María Elena was married to the late union leader Miguel Contreras, who served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor from 1996 until his untimely death on May 6, 2005. She has two children with Miguel Contreras, Mario and Michael Contreras.
March 29, 2019

The Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 354 (Durazo) — SUPPORT
As introduced February 19, 2019

Dear Chair Leyva,

As members of the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition, our organizations are writing in support of Senate Bill 354 by Senator Maria Elena Durazo, which will expand financial aid opportunities through the California Dream Loan Program to undocumented students who meet AB 540 requirements and are enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.

The California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition is composed of educators, community allies, and students working to strengthen California’s workforce and economy by ensuring college access and success for undocumented youth in the state. Estimates suggest over 75,000 undocumented students are enrolled in California public colleges and universities. Of the 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients across the country, 97% are either in school or currently employed; more than one in four of these young people reside in California. Losing, or even underutilizing, these talented students poses a threat for California's workforce and economy, as the state is already poised to be 1.65 million college educated workers short by 2030. Supporting undocumented students reinforces both California’s economy and its values.

In recent years, the legislature has enacted laws that have removed significant financial barriers for undocumented students to access a postsecondary education with the passage of the AB 540 (2001), the California Dream Act, and the California Dream Loan program among many other pieces of meaningful legislation. Additionally, the legislature enacted policies such as AB 1024 (2013) and SB 1159 (2014) to remove barriers for undocumented Californians to obtain professional licenses and practice in their field. As a result, many students have entered into educational pathways that would lead them a graduate or professional degree that would require them to obtain additional education practice in their profession and become licensed.

Undocumented students are ineligible for any form of federal financial aid, including even Direct Unsubsidized Loans made available to graduate students with legal status. As a result, undocumented students pursuing graduate and professional degree programs have limited options in financing their education and are often faced with borrowing high-interest loans, as many reputable low-interest loan providers require legal status or a co-signatory with legal status. SB 354 provides affordable low interest loans and a health alternative then the current options that are available to undocumented students seeking to obtain a loan and continues to build on the investment that California has made for immigrant youth.
Students should be able to pursue graduate or professional education based on their career goals and personal interests, not on their ability to access affordable financing options. The Dream Loan has become a critical means for undocumented students to cover the costs of their undergraduate education and can unlock other opportunities by beginning to also include eligible students entering graduate and professional programs. For these reasons, the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition urges your support for SB 354 and for the thousands of undocumented students across our state.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

AB 540 Ally Training Project
Alliance for a Better Community
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
California State Student Association
Californians Together
The Campaign for College Opportunity
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
The Civil Rights Project – Proyecto Derechos Civiles
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
The Education Trust – West
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU)
Immigrants Rising

The Institute for College Access & Success
Kid City Hope Place
Leticia A. Network
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Ángeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
Southern California College Access Network
Students Making a Change
Student Senate of California Community Colleges
UnidosUS
University of California Student Association
USC Rossier Pullias Center for Higher Education
Year Up
Young Invincibles

cc: Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Members, Senate Education Committee
Olgalilia Ramirez, Consultant Senate Education Committee

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1 Total based on estimates provided by the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California.
For better or worse, school construction bond on March 2020 ballot will be Prop. 13

John Fensterwald

You don’t have to be superstitious to fear the number 13. Both supporters and opponents of a proposed $15 billion school and college construction bond headed for the March 2020 state ballot are somewhat apprehensive now that the Secretary of State has designated it Proposition 13.

Four decades after state voters slashed property taxes and set a cap on property tax increases by passing the infamous Prop. 13, the number continues to conjure strong feelings pro and con among California voters, even though many weren’t old enough to vote at the time. Whether that association will affect their view of a new bond measure is an X factor those involved in the election hadn’t anticipated.

“Anything but,” confided a legislative staffer when asked if the person would have preferred a number other than 13.

“The first thing I thought was, ‘Are they messing with our heads a little bit?’ ” said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, an anti-tax organization named after the man who led the Prop. 13 campaign.

Actually, no. It’s the luck of the draw under a 30-year-old state law, assured a spokesman from the Secretary of State’s office. The Legislature decided that the numbering process for propositions should begin again every 10 years, starting in 1998. In 2018, the first year under the latest cycle, there were 12 propositions on the ballot. Since the law dictates that bond measures appear first on the ballot, that put the school and college construction bond — the only bond on the upcoming March ballot — next in line.

Prop. 13 is Assembly Bill 48. It would allocate $9 billion for preschool to K-12, with most of it providing matching funding for school districts’ renovation projects, $1 billion for charter school and career technical facilities plus $6 billion split equally among community colleges, California State University and the University of California. The Legislature passed it in September after the Department of Finance and Gov. Gavin Newsom’s staff negotiated a new K-12 distribution formula for funding that gives priority and a bigger share of money to small districts needing financial help and low-income, low-property-wealth districts that had been shut out of the process under past bonds.

There will be money dedicated to districts with pressing facilities needs, including removing lead in water and reducing seismic hazards. The state has run out of matching money for school facilities projects from the last bond, $9 billion for K-12 schools and community colleges, approved in 2016.
Coupal said the Howard Jarvis association will oppose the bond for several reasons. One is that, with a budget surplus, the state should be funding facilities on a pay-as-you-go-basis, instead of accumulating more debt. As for number 13, Coupal doesn’t know whether it will work for or against the bond. Though it will be clearly labeled as a school construction bond, with arguments pro and con, it’s possible that some tax opponents may automatically vote for it, he said.

“We will get calls from citizens saying there is something sneaky here,” he said. “It speaks to the need to make things clear” by using parenthesis when referring to Prop. 13 (1978) or Prop. 13 (2020).

Adding to the potential confusion is that an effort to amend the original Prop. 13 with a “split-roll” tax will be fighting for voters’ attention next year. Proponents want to raise $11 billion by changing the rules on reevaluating business and commercial property while leaving tax limits on homes intact. In coming months, the Schools and Communities First coalition will be gathering the nearly 1 million signatures it will need to put its initiative on the November ballot; ads opposing it by Coupal’s organization and the business community already have hit the airwaves.

“Confusion is the friend of the ‘no’ vote,” said Kevin Gordon, president of Capitol Advisors Group, an education consulting company based in Sacramento and a supporter of the bond. “But you have to play the hand you’re dealt.”

There may be nothing to worry about. The two Prop. 13s on the ballot since the 1998 law also passed easily. One was a $2 billion water bond in 2000; the other, much in the spirit of Prop 13 (1978), was a constitutional amendment in 2010 prohibiting reassessing buildings that were seismically retrofitted. And past state school construction bonds have drawn strong support. Since 1998, voters have passed five, including Prop. 58 in 2016, which then-Gov. Jerry Brown opposed.

Coupal said that he’d be willing to write a joint letter with supporters of the bond asking Secretary of State Alex Padilla to reassign another number to avoid voter confusion.

But if the coalition of school districts, construction industry interests and higher education organizations behind AB 48 think that’s a good idea, they’re not saying.

“Hopefully after March a new generation will associate Prop. 13 with investing billions to improve safety for California’s schools and students,” Dan Newman, a spokesman for the campaign to pass the bond, wrote in an email.
Should non-citizens vote in Los Angeles school board elections?

Michael Burke

The state’s largest school district is moving forward with plans to explore giving voting rights to non-citizen parents in the district.
The Los Angeles Unified School District’s board on Tuesday is expected to pass a resolution directing Superintendent Austin Beutner to organize a work group that will study the possibility of giving voting rights to all parents and legal guardians of students in the district, regardless of citizenship. The study group will report back to the board within 180 days with a decision on whether to propose a ballot measure that would give those parents the right to vote and make Los Angeles the second city in California to do so.

San Francisco last year became the first city in the state and one of only a few in the nation to allow noncitizens to vote in a local election. The impact of the change, however, has been limited, as only a small number of non-citizens have registered to vote in the city, likely because of fear of national immigration policy under the Trump administration.

Allowing non-citizens to vote in Los Angeles could have a significant impact. California has more immigrants than any other state and more immigrants live in Los Angeles County than any other region in the state, according to the University of Southern California.

Among other tasks, the Los Angeles Unified study group would explore ways to ensure the confidentiality of non-citizen parents if they are provided the right to vote, a hurdle San Francisco has yet to overcome. On its election website, San Francisco warns non-citizens that information provided to the Department of Elections — including name and address — may be obtained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other agencies and individuals.

The Los Angeles resolution was unanimously approved by the board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee last month. It provides no specific timeline for implementation, but if the district decides to move forward with the proposal, it would need to be approved first by the Los Angeles City Council and then placed on the ballot. If approved by voters, in addition to San Francisco, Los Angeles would join Chicago and several cities in Maryland in allowing non-citizens to vote in some elections.

Experts say that allowing non-citizen parents to vote in elections could improve outcomes for students, who perform better academically when their parents are more engaged.

Kelly Gonez, the board member who authored the resolution, said she was inspired to introduce the proposal in part because of her experience running for school board in 2017, when she often interacted with immigrant parents.

“Many of them were very interested and passionate about the issues that were at play in the school board election but didn’t have the ability to make the decision for themselves as to who would represent them on the school board,” she said.

L.A. Unified does not track the number of individuals without citizenship in the district, but Los Angeles County is home to about 3.5 million immigrants.
Chicago has allowed non-citizens to vote in school board elections since 1989. About a dozen towns in Maryland — including Takoma Park, Chevy Chase and Hyattsville — allow non-citizens to vote in local elections.

In San Francisco, **voter participation among non-citizen parents has lagged** since they were given the right to vote in school board elections. Ron Hayduk, a professor at San Francisco State University with expertise in immigrant voting rights, said there is “no doubt” that fear over retaliation from federal authorities has deterred those individuals from voting.

Advocates in Los Angeles have said they are concerned about the confidentiality of immigrant parents if they are provided the ability to register for elections and fearful that Los Angeles Unified could similarly see low voter turnout.

Juan Ramirez, a vice president of United Teachers Los Angeles, said during a committee hearing when the resolution was introduced that the teachers union’s “only concern” is the privacy of parents.

Marina Magañ, a policy advocate for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, an immigrant advocacy group based in Los Angeles, similarly said the confidentiality of immigrant parents is a top priority for her organization.

“That’s always a concern of ours, I think, be it with this situation or with any information that our community members give to any government entity. Our primary concern is what are the legal protections behind it, so that ICE does not have access to it,” Magaña told EdSource.

Gonz said she understands concerns over confidentiality and won’t support moving forward with a ballot measure until they are fully addressed. Her resolution states that Los Angeles Unified’s proposal must “include strategies for assuring the confidentiality of the right to vote and assuaging fears of retaliation due to immigration status.”

“I think fears and concerns are completely legitimate,” Gonz said. “And that’s why the resolution at the outset made it clear that we don’t want to move forward with any actionable proposal beyond this first step that we’re taking if we can’t ensure that our families’ privacy will be protected and that we are not putting any families in harm’s way.”

The study group will include parents as well as representatives from immigrant advocacy organizations, civic engagement organizations, the Los Angeles County Registrar’s Office, the Office of the City Clerk and district labor partners.

Allowing non-citizen parents to vote could also improve the academic performance of their children, said Hayduk, the San Francisco State University professor. **A body of research** shows that increased parent involvement is correlated with greater academic achievements for students.

“Kids learn better if their parents are connected to their education process,” he said. “And that’s really across the board in academic studies. It’s an indisputable finding.”

Magaña, the policy advocate for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, said she often witnesses non-citizen parents already engaging in their children’s academic activities. But she added that, if implemented sensibly, giving those parents the right to vote will expand their voices in the district.

“Granting them that opportunity to participate in a school board election will just further increase their involvement and also increase the success of their children when they go on from LAUSD schools,” she said.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2019

DACA Recipients, Broad Coalition of Immigrants’ Rights Organizations Launch “Home Is Here” Campaign Ahead of Crucial Supreme Court Hearing

WASHINGTON, DC — Ahead of the November 12, 2019, U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments in three consolidated cases regarding President Trump’s unlawful termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, DACA recipients and a broad coalition of immigrants’ rights organizations today launched the Home Is Here campaign to highlight what is at stake for 700,000 DACA recipients, their families (including 256,000 U.S. citizen children), our communities, the economy, and our country if the Court overturns the lower court rulings currently allowing DACA renewals to continue.

“For the past seven years, DACA has been an incredibly successful program, providing temporary protection from deportation and peace of mind to nearly 800,000 young people who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives. These Dreamers are part of the fabric of our country, but their futures are once again hanging by a thread as DACA heads to the Supreme Court,” said Karen Tumlin, founder and director of the Justice Action Center, manager of the Home Is Here Campaign, and part of the counsel team for McAleenan v. Batalla Vidal. “Ending DACA was both immoral and unlawful, as multiple courts across the country have found. We will continue to fight for DACA recipients and their families whose home is here, in the United States.”

Organizations participating in the campaign include CASA, the Center for American Progress, Community Change/FIRM, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), FWD.us, Justice Action Center, Make the Road New York, NAKASEC, National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and United We Dream (UWD).

The Home Is Here campaign tells the stories of and commits to protect DACA recipients who arrived in the United States as children and their families. Over the past seven years, more than 700,000 immigrant youth have been able to work, attend school, better support their families, and make even greater contributions to our communities and our country because of the temporary protection from deportation granted by the DACA program. If DACA ends, DACA recipients would be added to the list of those targeted in the deportation dragnet and threatened with deportation to a country that they may not remember and where they may not even speak the language, sparking a new wave of family separation crises nationwide. Their homes are here in the United States.

The campaign will underscore why DACA is legal, constitutional, and highly successful through events across the country over the next six weeks, including DACA renewal clinics and other efforts to encourage DACA recipients to renew their protections as soon as possible, digital storytelling, paid advertising, organizing, and rallies at the Supreme Court and in multiple cities across the country on November 12.

On November 12, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in McAleenan v. Batalla Vidal, Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California, and Trump v. NAACP. The lower courts in each of these cases ruled that the Trump administration’s September 2017 termination of the DACA program is unlawful. Nationwide injunctions and other court orders in place have allowed DACA renewals to continue since early 2018; however, no new first-time applications have been considered or granted since the attempted termination. A decision from the Supreme Court is expected between January and June 2020.

The deputy solicitor general of California, Michael Mongan, and noted Supreme Court advocate Ted Olson, solicitor general of the United States under the George W. Bush Administration, will argue on behalf of a number of individual DACA recipients and the other plaintiffs in these cases, including the regents of the University of California, Microsoft, Princeton University, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director of the National Immigration Law Center: “For hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth whose home is here, DACA opened the door to opportunities and the stability many of us take for granted. For seven years, DACA has been transformative in the lives of DACA recipients who have grown up here, for our communities, and for our country as a whole. Allowing Trump’s unlawful and cruel attempt to end
DACA to move forward would vastly compound the already devastating consequences of Trump’s relentless actions to criminalize, disenfranchise, and shut our doors to immigrants, refugees, Muslims, and other communities of color. In this critical moment, we’re reinvigorated and determined to keep fighting for DACA alongside immigrant youth and our partners across the country. We call on you to join us in this fight.”

**Martin Batalla-Vidal, lead plaintiff in the *Batalla Vidal v. McAleenan* lawsuit to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court and member of Make the Road New York:** “Because of DACA, for the past seven years I have been able to go to school, work at my dream job, and remain with my family in the United States. The Trump administration’s cruel and unlawful termination of DACA has caused chaos and uncertainty in young immigrants across the country. DACA has been a valuable policy that has allowed hundreds of thousands of people to work, to go to school, and pursue their dreams. Next month, we hope the court will listen to voices of the hundreds of thousands of immigrants like me, whose lives are at stake. The court should uphold the rule of law by rejecting the Trump administration’s reckless attack on DACA and leave this vital policy in place.”

**Gustavo Torres, CASA Executive Director:** “CASA is proud to be a part of the #HomeIsHere campaign. We cannot allow the termination of DACA for over 700,000 young people who have been living and working in the United States for decades. Several federal courts have already ruled that Trump’s September 2017 attempt to end the DACA program was completely unlawful. On November 12th, we will go to the Supreme Court and continue to fight against this injustice. Our families are emboldened by knowing they are on the right side of history. We cannot let them down.”

**Tom Jawetz, Vice President of Immigration Policy at the Center for American Progress:** “We are united with our partners in the fight to defend DACA, and with it, the future of hundreds of thousands of young people who are woven into the fabric of our communities. Over the past six years, CAP’s research has demonstrated that DACA works, helping to strengthen national, state, and local economies and unlock tremendous human potential. Like every lower court that has ruled on the question so far, the U.S. Supreme Court should halt the Trump administration’s illegal efforts to end DACA so that we can work together to build a fair, humane, and workable immigration system that advances the nation’s interests and values.”

**Angelica Salas, Executive Director of CHIRLA:** “There have been key moments in our nation’s history when our hearts and minds join as one to form a strong union. One of those moments was the start of DACA, which welcomed so many Americans-in-waiting into this society. But, some key moments can mean danger especially if fear and hatred reign. This is one of those moments and it calls for us to defend the progress we have made. This is why together, as a movement and a society, we are rising up for DACA.”

**Lorella Praeli, Vice President of Community Change:** “DACA created a way for undocumented youth to fearlessly live their lives. We have to come together to build a country where all of us are free to thrive and where everyone has full citizenship. That’s what Home Is Here is about: fighting together to expand the circle, not close it.”

**Maria Praeli, Government Relations Manager at FWD.us:** “The Supreme Court’s decision will have life-altering consequences for DACA recipients like me, our families, and our communities. Millions of people across the country will be impacted by the decision. Dreamers have shown immeasurable bravery as we fight for the right to continue contributing to the only country that most of us have ever known. FWD.us is proud to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Dreamers, and the millions of our friends, family members, colleagues, and neighbors across the country who have made their voices heard in support of Dreamers.”

**Becky Belcore, Co-Director of NAKASEC:** “Many people are unaware that thousands of Asian Americans are DACA recipients and that this is a core issue within our community. We know that the vast majority of Americans support our young people. It is critical in this moment that all Americans show their support for the DACA program and call on the Supreme Court to rule on the right side of history!”

**Cristina Jiménez, Executive Director & Co-Founder of United We Dream:** “For the over 700,000 DACA recipients and our families: our home is here. We will be loud and unapologetic about our hopes, dreams, and fight for justice, and we won’t be scared by Trump’s personal mission to detain and deport as many people as possible. Immigrant youth are not bargaining chips and the Supreme Court should not be a tool for his mass deportation agenda either. Our communities are organizing nationwide to defend DACA and create a country where everyone has the freedom to thrive. The Supreme Court should uphold the three courts’ rulings that have kept DACA in place and not greenlight putting immigrant youth in the crosshairs for family separation.”
Join the conversation on social media ![Social Media Icons]

Meet L.A.’s Newest Senator

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<td>California State Senate District 24 Vice Chair</td>
<td>California State Senate</td>
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<td>David Rattray</td>
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<td>Tamika Lang</td>
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