

## *Highlights of Laws Authored by California's Women Senators*

### **September 1999**

In 1976, Rose Ann Vuich, an accountant and farmer in the Tulare County town of Dinuba, became the first woman to win election to the California State Senate. In the 22 years spanning her victory and the 1998 elections, another 15 women won seats in the state's upper house. The 40-member Senate sent to Sacramento for the 1999-2000 legislative session was 25 percent female.

The following pages highlight significant California laws authored by these 16 women. Unlike Senator Vuich, many of those elected in later years had served in the Assembly (where the first four women won office in 1918). In the entries below, the years each senator served in the Assembly are noted, if applicable, followed by her tenure in the Senate.

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### ***Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Dede Alpert***

*Assembly: 1990 to 1996  
Senate: 1996 to Present*

#### **Making Mammograms Safer**

***AB 2841, Chapter 870, Statutes of 1992*** – Enacts the Mammography Quality Assurance Act of 1992 to certify mammography technicians and ensure the safety of the equipment used.

#### **Improving California's Public Schools**

**AB 1114, Chapter 161, Statutes of 1993** – Allows parents to choose among schools within their public school district.

**AB 265, Chapter 975, Statutes of 1995** – Establishes a voluntary basic skills test administered by school districts in grades 2-10 and a mandatory statewide test of applied academic skills in grades 4,5,8 and 10.

**AB 170, Chapter 765, Statutes of 1995** – Requires the state Board of Education to adopt reading and mathematics textbooks that include phonics, spelling and basic computational skills.

**SB 1X, Chapter 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 1999** – Evaluates California schools based on student performance on standardized tests. High-performing or improving schools are monetarily rewarded and under-performing schools are provided assistance.

### **Addressing Domestic Violence**

**AB 242, Chapter 600, Statutes of 1993** – Bans a person convicted of spousal abuse, stalking or violating a domestic violence restraining order from owning or possessing a firearm for ten years.

**AB 167, Chapter 140, Statutes of 1994 (co-authored with Assemblymembers Barbara Friedman and Hilda Solis)** – Allocates \$11.5 million for shelters and \$3.5 million to improve domestic violence prosecutions.

**AB 68X, Chapter 29, 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 1994** – Authorizes employers to obtain restraining orders against people who threaten individual employees or their places of work.

**AB 489, Chapter 1005, Statutes of 1998** – Establishes an address protection program for victims of domestic violence operated by the Secretary of State's Office.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Marian Bergeson**

Assembly: 1978 to 1984

Senate: 1984 to 1994

### **Promoting Public Health**

**SB 1178, Chapter 1405, Statutes of 1986** – Creates the California Nutrition Monitoring Act of 1986 and requires the state to assess existing nutrition monitoring, determine what information is needed and consider improving the data system.

**SB 2579, Chapter 980, Statutes of 1988 and SB 856, Chapter 1062, Statutes of 1991** – Maximizes funding for perinatal care by expanding Medi-Cal eligibility for maternity care and infant health services to 185% of the federal poverty level.

**SB 1055, Chapter 1204, Statutes of 1989 and SB 2038, Chapter 1345, Statutes of 1990** -- Expands availability and funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program for low-income mothers and their young children.

**SB 1100, Chapter 829, Statutes of 1991** – Bans the free distribution of tobacco products on public property.

### **Improving California's Transportation Network**

**SB 516, Chapter 9, Statutes of 1988** – Allows private entities to contract with the state Department of Transportation to provide services such as engineering, surveying and materials testing whenever the department lacks the necessary expertise.

**SB 838, Chapter 983, Statutes of 1990** – Creates the Orange County Transportation Authority.

### **Reforming Teacher Credentialing and Training**

**SB 148, Chapter 1355, Statutes of 1988** -- Enacts the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988.

**SB 1422 Chapter 1245, Statutes of 1992** – Establishes the California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program.

### **Facilitating Independent Adoptions**

**SB 1148, Chapter 1353, Statutes of 1992** – Shortens the time period for birth-parent consent to an adoption and requires that a notice-of-rights form be given to each party in an adoption.

### **Helping Victims of Discrimination**

Authored SB 827 in 1991 allowing the Fair Employment and Housing Commission to award compensatory damages to victims of employment discrimination. The bill was vetoed by the governor, but the proposal was enacted in a follow-up bill AB 311(Moore) in 1992; Senator Bergeson presented the Moore bill on the Senate floor.

### **Creating New Financing Bank for Infrastructure**

**AB 1495, Chapter 94, Statutes of 1994 (co-authored with Assemblymember Peace)** – Empowers a new Housing and Infrastructure Finance Agency to issue revenue bonds and accept general obligation bond funds to back state and local infrastructure projects.

### **Locking-Up Rapists and Child Molesters**

**SB 26X, Chapter 14, 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 1994** – Seeks to ensure that serious and dangerous sex offenders receive a life sentence after their "first strike."

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Debra Bowen**

Assembly: 1992 to 1998

Senate: 1998 to Present

### **Increasing the Public's Access to Government**

**AB 1624, Chapter 1235, Statutes of 1993** – Makes California the first state in the nation to require its Legislature to post legislative information such as bills, committee analyses and vote tallies on the Internet.

**AB 1577, Chapter 594, Statutes of 1995** – Requires the state to create a single digital signature and basic encryption procedure so private businesses can conduct business electronically with state departments.

### **Protecting the Environment**

**AB 1787, Chapter 817, Statutes of 1993** – Bans the sale of mercury and alkaline batteries in California.

### **Protecting the Taxpayer's Wallet**

**AB 2467, Chapter 794, Statutes of 1994** – Repeals the law that held local governments, and by extension, the taxpayers, liable for the legal fees and other judgment costs related to lawsuits against elected officials for attempting to inappropriately influence judicial action.

**AB 3026, Chapter 875, Statutes of 1994** – Sets up a centralized fingerprinting system at the Department of Justice. Requires other state departments, if they want automated fingerprint identification, to use this system instead of attempting to build their own.

### **Protecting Consumers**

**AB 1622, Chapter 37, Statutes of 1994** – Requires public agencies to retrofit swimming pools with new electrical equipment and lighting to prevent short-circuiting and electrocution.

**AB 1994, Chapter 802, Statutes of 1998** – Requires pre-paid phone and service providers to disclose the per-minute price and any surcharges in their advertising and packaging to show consumers the true costs.

**AB 1676, Chapter 865, Statutes of 1998** – Requires people sending unsolicited advertising e-mail to provide recipients with a toll free telephone number or an e-mail address so the recipient can ask to stop receiving the advertising. Failure of advertisers to comply could result in a fine of up to \$500 for each subsequent mailing.

**AB 1623, Chapter 417, Statutes of 1993** – Requires all condom manufactures to provide results of their quality assurance tests to the state Department of Health Services as a condition of doing business in California. The department would in turn provide that information to anyone upon written request.

### **Protecting Children**

**AB 1692, Chapter 670, Statutes of 1998** – Permits sexually abused children up to age 13 to testify in court cases using two-way closed circuit television.

**SB 1089, Chapter 211, Statutes of 1999** – Requires child abuse reporters and child welfare personnel to be trained to recognize and treat post traumatic stress disorder in children.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Martha Escutia**

Assembly: 1992 to 1998  
Senate: 1998 to Present

### **Creating Jobs and Boosting Local Businesses Along the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority**

**AB 1450, Chapter 1079, Statutes of 1993** – Requires the state Trade and Commerce Agency and the state Office of Permit Assistance to identify and expedite permits and other state and local agreements along the corridor that runs from the Long Beach and the Los Angeles Harbors to the Redondo junction in Los Angeles.

### **Curbing the Spread of AIDS Among Women**

**AB 2849, Chapter 788, Statutes of 1994** – Creates at least two pilot sites to provide early AIDS intervention services to women with or at risk of contracting AIDS.

### **Protecting the Environment**

**AB 349, Chapter 973, Statutes of 1996** – Ensures the safety of hazardous liquid pipelines by requiring pipeline operators to do a risk assessment and to file that assessment with the state fire marshal, with whom the pipeline data will be centralized and available to the public.

**AB 11, Chapter 766, Statutes of 1997** – Disallows affirmative defenses by repeat water polluters and individuals who intentionally released a pollutant such as petroleum, acid or tar into a waterway.

### **Promoting Court and Legal Reforms**

**AB 233, Chapter 859, Statutes of 1997** – Makes the state responsible for trial court funding and enacts a variety of reforms such as moving towards the consolidation of municipal and superior courts.

**AB 1394, Chapter 711, Statutes of 1997 (co-authored with Senator Figueroa)** – Allows for reasonable excess

*space or "slack fill" packaging of non-food items, similar to food packaging, to discourage unnecessary consumer litigation over packaging.*

**AB 645, Chapter 895, Statutes of 1998** -- *Allows a victim under age 16 who has intercourse with someone over 21 to qualify for up to \$3,000 from the Board of Control's Crime Victim Restitution Fund when felony charges are filed.*

### **Improving California's Public Schools**

**AB 1746, Chapter 1033, Statutes of 1998** – *Creates new school facilities to accommodate class size reduction.*

**AB 2216, Chapter 793, Statutes of 1998** -- *Creates grant programs to assist economically disadvantaged students to pay the fees for advanced placement exams and to train teachers to offer advanced placement courses.*

### **Providing More Child Care in Underserved Communities**

**AB 1857, Chapter 655, Statutes of 1998** -- *Modifies the use of new and carry-over child care funds for government-subsidized programs in the state Department of Education and gives priority to underserved areas.*

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Liz Figueroa**

*Assembly: 1994 to 1998*

*Senate: 1998 to Present*

### **Securing Tax Credits for Aerospace and High-Tech Firms**

*Successfully fought to include research and development tax credits for aerospace and high-tech firms each year, since 1994, in the state budget.*

### **Stopping Discrimination by Health and Property Insurers towards Victims of Domestic Violence**

**AB 1973, Chapter 603, Statutes of 1995 and AB 588, Chapter 845, Statutes of 1997** – *Forbids health, disability and property insurers from denying or restricting coverage to domestic violence victims.*

### **Improving Health Care for Patients**

**AB 2125, Chapter 790, Statutes of 1996** – *Makes female genital mutilation a felony and requires the state Department of Health Services to implement education, prevention and outreach efforts aimed at new immigrant populations that traditionally practice such mutilation.*

**AB 1126, Chapter 623, Statutes of 1997 (co-authored with Assemblymember Villaraigosa) and AB 217, Chapter 624, Statutes of 1997** – *Creates the "Healthy Families" program to provide health insurance for the children of the working poor. Senator Figueroa co-chaired the conference committee that drafted this major legislation.*

**AB 38, Chapter 389, Statutes of 1997** – *Requires health plans to provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care for a mother and infant following vaginal delivery and 96 hours following a cesarean section.*

**AB 103, Chapter 359, Statutes of 1997** – *Expands the amount of information available to consumers on the web about their doctors such as malpractice judgments, medical discipline, hospital affiliations and accepted insurance plans.*

**AB 1621, Chapter 788, Statutes of 1998** – *Requires HMOs and insurers to cover necessary reconstructive surgery.*

### **Banning the Use of Products Made by Slave Labor**

**AB 2457, Chapter 1149, Statutes of 1996** – Prohibits the state from entering into contracts to purchase any foreign product such as equipment, material or supplies made by slave labor. Sanctions contractors who fail to comply with this new law.

#### **Furnishing Replacements for Child Safety Seats**

**SB 363, Chapter 183, Statutes of 1999** – Requires automobile insurers to pay the cost of replacing child safety seats in cars when an auto accident occurs.

#### **Funding for Bay Trail Project in 1999-2000 Budget**

Orchestrated doubling California's financial commitment to complete the development of the San Francisco Bay Trail that encircles the Bay Area.

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### **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Teresa Hughes**

Assembly: 1975 to 1992

Senate: 1992 to Present

#### **Creating the California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture**

**AB 420, Chapter 571, Statutes of 1977** – Creates a museum within the California Museum of Science and Industry to preserve and display samples of Afro-American contributions to the arts, science, religion, education, literature, entertainment, politics, sports and history.

#### **Improving California's Public Schools**

**SB 813, Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983 (co-authored with Senator Hart)** – Enacts the Hughes-Hart Education Reform Act of 1983, a comprehensive educational reform package to overhaul the state's education system and increase funding for California's K – 12 programs.

**AB 1990, Chapter 929, Statutes of 1986** – Adds school districts to the law authorizing entities such as law enforcement and communities to apply for grants to suppress gang violence.

**AB 733, Chapter 1146, Statutes of 1987** – Creates the Hughes Earthquake Safety Act of 1987 and provides state funding for the reconstruction of school buildings not in compliance with earthquake safety standards.

**SB 1728, Chapter 1023, Statutes of 1994** – Cracks down on school truancy by making sure students and parents are aware of possible prosecution, suspension or revocation of a driver's license; adds provisions for habitual truants such as making these absent students wards of the court, suspending driving privileges, and attending truancy prevention programs.

**SB 1255, Chapter 1022, Statutes of 1994** – Creates a pilot conflict-resolution program to teach pupils techniques for resolving problems without resorting to the use of violence.

#### **Regulating Gun Dealers**

**SB 180, Chapter 1139, Statutes of 1993** – Establishes guidelines for gun dealers for the storage of firearms and requires dealers to report stolen or missing firearms within 48 hours of discovery.

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### **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Betty Karnette**

Assembly: 1992 to 1994  
Senate: 1996 to Present

### **Reforming the Rent-to-Own Industry**

**AB 722, Chapter 1026, Statutes of 1994** -- Enacts the Karnette Rental-Purchase Act to reform rental-purchase agreements and better protect consumers.

### **Requiring On-Line Campaign Disclosure**

**SB 49, Chapter 866, Statutes of 1997** – Requires the secretary of state to develop and implement an on-line filing and disclosure system accessible to the public for state campaign contribution and spending statements.

### **Helping Cities Stop Crime Associated with Liquor Licenses**

**SB 609, Chapter 459, Statutes of 1997** -- Provides additional opportunities for local governments to participate in liquor license decisions by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to help local governments stop criminal activity associated with certain establishments.

### **Releasing the Identity of Juvenile Felons**

**SB 388, Chapter 341, Statutes of 1997** -- Authorizes law enforcement agencies to release the name of a minor 14 years of age or older if there is an outstanding warrant for the juvenile's arrest for a serious or violent offense.

### **Providing Prostate Cancer Screening**

**SB 2020, Chapter 839, Statutes of 1998** -- Requires every health care plan to provide coverage for the screening and diagnosis of prostate cancer.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Lucy Killea**

Assembly: 1982 to 1989  
Senate: 1989 to 1996

### **Making Public and Private Boards More Accessible and Diverse**

**SB 455, Chapter 669, Statutes of 1991** – Reforms the process for notifying the public of openings on state and local boards and commissions by making these lists available at selected public libraries.

**SB 545, Chapter 508, Statutes of 1993** – Directs the Secretary of State's Office to create a registry of distinguished women and minorities available to serve on corporate boards of directors.

### **Protecting the Environment**

**SB 1224, Chapter 1347, Statutes of 1992** -- Promotes water conservation by requiring low consumption toilets or conservation retrofit devices in new and renovated homes.

**SB 1095, Chapter 517, Statutes of 1993** -- Requires the state Department of Transportation to establish an annual funding priority list for bicycle projects and to publish a statewide bicycle route map.

**SB 1091, Chapter 913, Statutes of 1993** – Ensures public safety by regulating and enforcing stronger household hazardous waste disposal and transportation laws.

## **Licensing and Certification of Midwives**

**SB 350, Chapter 1280, Statutes of 1993** -- Establishes education and licensure standards of direct-entry, non-nurse midwives to assist in labor and delivery.

## **Facilitating Efforts to Improve the California State Budget Process**

**SB 16, Chapter 1243, Statutes of 1993** -- Establishes a citizens commission to recommend improvements to the process for adopting the annual state budget.

## **Protecting State Chartered Banks**

**SB 855, Chapter 754, Statutes of 1995** – Makes sure federal banking laws do not adversely impact state chartered banks, as opposed to nationally chartered banks, by giving the state Banking Department authority to adopt emergency parity-related regulations.

## **Exonerating Lending Institutions from Hazardous Waste Liability**

**SB 1285, Chapter 612, Statutes of 1996** -- Immunizes lenders and fiduciaries from liability resulting from the release of hazardous materials on property in which they have a legal interest and no management interest.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Barbara Lee**

Assembly: 1990 to 1996

Senate: 1996 to 1998

### **Improving Health Care for Children**

**AB 1979, Chapter 797, Statutes of 1991** -- Requires health care service plans to offer lead-level blood tests for children.

**SB 903, Chapter 624, Statutes of 1998 (co-authored with Senator Maddy)** – Implements the "Healthy Families" Program by changing Medi-Cal requirements to allow access to the children of the working poor and makes other reforms to make Medi-Cal more consumer friendly.

### **Creating the California Defense Conversion Task Force**

**AB 2222, Chapter 444, Statutes of 1993** -- Creates the State Defense Conversion Task Force to assist communities, businesses, and industries in planning for defense conversion and in retraining defense workers.

### **Curbing Hate Violence in Schools**

**AB 2543, Chapter 1198, Statutes of 1994** -- Requires the state to develop programs aimed at reducing hate violence that school districts are encouraged to implement. Allows schools to suspend students in grades 4-12 for such acts.

### **Making Homes Safer**

**AB 3131, Chapter 290, Statutes of 1996** – Prohibits the sale of burglar bars for residential use unless specified information concerning emergency fire safety releases is provided to consumers.

### **Providing Shelter for Homeless Individuals**

**SB 255, Chapter 716, Statutes of 1997** -- Guarantees that cities and counties will have continuing access to state armories during the harsh winter months to house the homeless.

### **Funding for Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services**



**SB 350 , Chapter 9, Statutes of 1997** – Appropriates \$11.5 million in federal monies to the state Office of Criminal Justice Planning to distribute grants to strengthen law enforcement strategies, prosecution procedures and victim services.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Rebecca Morgan**

*Senate: 1984 to 1993*

### **Establishing a State Reserve for Economic Uncertainties**

**SB 1465, Chapter 139, Statutes of 1985** – Creates a special reserve fund, separate from the General Fund, available for short-term borrowing or to eliminate a deficit at the end of a fiscal year.

### **Authorizing Emergency Call Boxes in the Bay Area**

**SB 572, Chapter 250, Statutes of 1987** – Allows local government to assess a \$1 vehicle-registration fee to pay for the installation and operation of solar-powered call boxes along freeways in the nine Bay Area counties.

### **Revitalizing the Commuter Train between San Francisco and San Jose**

**SB 2628, Chapter 1434, Statutes of 1988** – Takes management of Caltrain on the San Francisco Peninsula away from the state and establishes the Peninsula Rail Transit District to save the train from extinction and preserve the right-of-way.

### **Bringing State Government and Schools into the Information Age**

**SB 1869, Chapter 1014, Statutes of 1988** – Authorizes the Teale Data Center and Health and Welfare Data Center to establish centralized electronic data-processing services for the state.

**AB 1470, Chapter 1334, Statutes of 1989 (co-authored with Assemblymembers Farr and Quackenbush)** – Establishes a program to provide local assistance grants to grades K-12 for educational technology applications.

### **Preserving the Sacramento Home of Governor Stanford**

**1987 State Budget and SCR 65, Chapter 95, Statutes of 1988** – Requires the state to preserve and rehabilitate "The Stanford House" as a place of historic interest useful for tours, conferences and receptions.

### **Protecting Children in Custody Determinations**

**SB 1306, Chapter 1442, Statutes of 1988** – Clarifies existing custody law to say there is no preference or presumption when awarding custody and the guiding principle is the parenting plan that is in the best interests of the child or children.

### **Initiating Class Size Reduction**

**SB 666, Chapter 1147, Statutes of 1989** – Enacts the "Morgan-Hart Class Size Reduction Act" to provide incentives to school districts to reduce class size in grades 9-12. Provides additional funds for direct individual instruction in language arts to pupils in grades 1-3.

### **Increasing Tax Deductions for Child Care**

**SB 2208, Chapter 1347, Statutes of 1990** – Provides an increase in the amount a qualified parent can deduct for child care expenses.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Deborah Ortiz**

Assembly: 1996 to 1998

Senate: 1998 to Present

### **Promoting School-Related Reforms**

**AB 326, Chapter 917, Statutes of 1997 and AB 1428, Chapter 319, Statutes of 1998** – Provide funding for after-school literacy, recreation and enrichment programs targeted for low-income students in grades K – 9.

**AB 1610, Chapter 588, Statutes of 1997** – Requires school districts to obtain fingerprint checks prior to hiring anyone for any position that does not require a credential.

### **Protecting Disabled and Elderly Passengers on Buses**

**AB 1611, Chapter 595, Statutes of 1997** – Requires persons who drive buses that transport developmentally disabled persons to undergo background checks and obtain special drivers' certificates.

**AB 1634, Chapter 241, Statutes of 1998** – Establishes basic safety standards for paratranit operators who transport disabled and elderly persons on a for-hire basis.

### **Advocating for Cancer Research and Education**

**AB 1554, Chapter 755, Statutes of 1997** – Allocates \$2 million from the General Fund for gender-specific cancer research such as ovarian, uterine, prostate and testicular.

**AB 833, Chapter 754, Statutes of 1997** – Authorizes the state Department of Health Services to inform and educate consumers about gynecological cancers.

### **Encouraging Foster Care Relatives to Assume Guardianship**

**AB 317, Chapter 258, Statutes of 1997** – Authorizes counties to participate in a pilot project to pay relative caretakers the higher foster care rate rather than the welfare/TANF rate.

### **Giving State Employees a Pay Raise**

**SB 108, Chapter 11, Statutes of 1999** – Ratifies agreements giving state employees a pay raise.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Hilda L. Solis**

Assembly: 1992 to 1994

Senate: 1994 to Present

### **Addressing Domestic Violence**

**AB 187, Chapter 595, Statutes of 1993** – Conforms spousal rape and other rape laws by making all forms of rape, including spousal rape, essentially the same crime.

**AB 3034, Chapter 872, Statutes of 1994** – Requires the Department of Justice to maintain a statewide domestic violence restraining-order registry so law enforcement can immediately access such information.

**SB 165, Chapter 411, Statutes of 1998** – Permits persons who are forced to leave their employment because of domestic violence to receive unemployment insurance.

### **Raising the Minimum Wage**

Led efforts to pass Proposition 210 in November 1996 to raise the minimum wage to \$5.75 on March 1, 1998.

### **Advocating for Children in Juvenile Court Matters**

**SB 1516, Chapter 1084, Statutes of 1996** – Makes the well-being of a child rather than the return of a minor to his or her guardian the highest priority of counsel appointed to represent the child.

### **Protecting Vulnerable Groups Affected by 1997 Welfare Reform**

When California enacted CalWORKS, a comprehensive welfare-to-work program, Senator Solis worked to ensure that victims of domestic violence, custodial grandparents, and college students on welfare were given flexibility in meeting welfare requirements.

### **Implementing Major Health Provisions in the 1997 State Budget**

**SB 391, Chapter 294, Statutes of 1997** – Affects over 30 health-related services, including making it easier for former welfare recipients to continue receiving Medi-Cal once they return to work and continuing the programs dependent on tobacco tax monies.

### **Installing Deadbolts to Protect Tenants**

**SB 548, Chapter 537, Statutes of 1997** – Requires landlords to install and maintain deadbolt locks on doors and windows of rental units.

### **Limiting the Sale of Chemicals Used to Make Methemphetamines**

**SB 1539, Chapter 305, Statutes of 1998** – Makes it a misdemeanor to sell more than eight ounces of iodine or four ounces of red phosphorous in any 30-day period.

### **Creating Parks Along the San Gabriel River**

Successfully worked to put \$700,000 in the 1999-2000 State Budget to preserve open space and create urban parks along the San Gabriel River.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Jackie Speier**

Assembly: 1986 to 1996

Senate: 1998 to Present

### **Protecting Consumers**

**AB 3746, Chapter 797, Statutes of 1992 and AB 598, Chapter 1232, Statutes of 1993** -- Overhauls the laws covering the funeral and cremation industries to protect consumers from unfair and illegal practices.

**AB 918, Chapter 1123, Statutes of 1994** -- Creates a unique program to compensate Californians victimized by travel agency business failures from a restitution fund supported by travel agencies.

**AB 650, Chapter 1126, Statutes of 1996** – Reduces the rate of uninsured motorists by making the state require proof of insurance before an individual can register a car.

### **Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence**

**AB 1599, Chapter , Statutes of 1987** – Allows domestic violence emergency protective orders to be issued when a court is not in session.

**AB 224, Chapter 1229, Statutes of 1993** – Extends the duration of domestic violence emergency protective orders from two to five court days and expands the list of law enforcement personnel, such as university police, authorized to request a protective order.

**AB 1652, Chapter 992, Statutes of 1993** – Requires medical professionals to report suspected domestic violence to law enforcement.

### **Increasing Collection of Delinquent Child-Support Payments**

**AB 1394, Chapter 50, Statutes of 1992** – Prevents professionals such as doctors and lawyers who haven't paid child support from obtaining or renewing their licenses.

**AB 923, Chapter 906, Statutes of 1994** – Expands statewide a successful pilot established in previous Speier legislation for the state Franchise Tax Board to collect delinquent child support.

**AB 257, Chapter 481, Statutes of 1995** -- Denies a driver's license to a motorist who owes back child support.

### **Advocating for Women's Health**

**AB 2652, Chapter 780, Statutes 1992** -- Creates the State Breast Cancer Tax Check-Off Fund.

**AB 547, Chapter 1208, 1993 Statutes** -- Mandates insurance coverage for osteoporosis services such as bone mass measurement.

**AB 2200, Chapter 760, Statutes 1994** -- Creates the Office of Women's Health within the State Department of Health Services.

**AB 2493, Chapter 759, Statutes of 1994** -- Allows women to choose their ob-gyn as their primary care provider.

### **Authorizing the Fluoridation of Drinking Water**

**AB 733, Chapter 660, Statutes of 1995** -- Authorizes municipalities to fluoridate water systems as a means of reducing tooth decay.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Rose Ann Vuich**

Senate: 1976 to 1992

### **Completion of Highway 41 through Fresno**

Successfully lobbied in 1978 to secure the funding necessary to complete Highway 41, a cross-town freeway through Fresno that had been abandoned halfway through construction.

### **Penalizing Chronic Drunken Drivers**

**SB 1601, Chapter 1338, Statutes of 1982 (co-authored with Senator Sieroty)** -- Increases penalties for individuals convicted of second drunk-driving offenses.

### **Protecting the Public Purse**

**SB 977, Chapter 810, Statutes of 1983** -- Requires contractors on state-federal projects to be properly licensed at the time a contract is awarded.

### **Helping Agriculture**

**SB 1196, Chapter 1693, Statutes of 1984** -- Makes available technical and financial assistance for increasing the export of goods, services and agricultural commodities produced by California-based firms, especially small and medium-sized businesses. This legislation is considered a national model and is listed by the Council of State Governments as one of most innovative state programs to help small businesses.

**SB 1320, Chapter 578, Statutes of 1984** -- Fines an individual up to \$25,000 who negligently or intentionally starts or spreads a plant, pest or animal disease infestation.

**SB 1623, Chapter 506, Statutes of 1984** -- Provides funds to aid in boll weevil control and eradication.

### **Protecting Consumers' Financial Investments**

**SB 1762, Chapter 323, Statutes of 1990** -- Sets penalties for broker-dealers who violate the Commodity Exchange Act.

**SB 2496, Chapter 947, Statutes of 1990** -- Requires any officer, director, or employee of any California financial institution who is convicted of taking or misapplying the financial institution's money or property to be, in addition to any other punishment, such as prison, ordered to make full restitution to the financial institution. Also prohibits any person convicted of a financial-institution-related crime from being employed by, or connected with, a financial institution with federally insured deposits.

### **Creating the Trade and Commerce Agency**

**SB 1909, Chapter 1364, Statutes of 1992** -- Authorizes the creation of the state Trade and Commerce Agency. The work of this agency helped California pull out of the recession of the early 1990s.

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## **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Diane Watson**

Senate: 1978 to 1998

### **Creating Child Care Facilities in State Buildings**

**SB 764, Chapter 913, Statutes of 1980** – Requires the state to include child care facilities when it constructs or remodels a state office that accommodates 700 or more employees.

### **Establishing Health-Related Programs**

**SB 834, Chapter 204, Statutes of 1982** – Establishes the birth-defect monitoring program to collect data concerning birth defects, stillbirths and miscarriages in order to provide information on trends, possible environmental hazards and other possible causes, and to help develop prevention strategies.

**SB 99, Chapter 1170, Statutes of 1991** – Extends to July 1, 1994, the sunset date of Proposition 99 funded-health programs, including anti-smoking education, prenatal care, children's health and indigent health programs.

**SB 2012, Chapter 583, Statutes of 1992** – Requires organ-donor forms to be mailed to every applicant who renews a driver's license by mail, ensures that these donor cards are honored without having to seek the consent of the next of kin, and makes other changes to expedite the availability of donated organs.

### **Preventing Homelessness Among Welfare Applicants**

**SB 74, Chapter 75, Statutes of 1984** – Reenacts the authority of the state to provide emergency assistance for needy families with children.

### **Improving Law Enforcement's Response to Domestic Violence**

**SB 1472, Chapter 1609, Statutes of 1984** – Makes police intervention in a domestic violence dispute more effective by requiring law enforcement agencies to develop written policies, statewide training of officers and data collection on domestic violence calls.

### **Protecting Employees from Sexual Harassment**

**SB 2012, Chapter 1754, Statutes of 1984** – Strengthens sexual-harassment protections and makes the law applicable to all employers – not just employers with five or more workers.

## **Gathering Data on Hate Crimes in California**

**SB 2080, Chapter 1482, Statutes of 1984** – Directs the attorney general to commence a one-year pilot program to collect, compile and analyze information about racial, ethnic and religious crimes. Follow-up legislation (**SB 202, Chapter 1172, Statutes of 1989**) makes this program permanent if there is adequate funding to implement it.

## **Identifying Pupils with Learning Disabilities in Grades K – 2**

**SB 1256, Chapter 1530, Statutes of 1985** – Establishes the Early Intervention for School Success Program to identify pupils with developmental disabilities, to implement appropriate instructional strategies to reduce the frequency and severity of learning disabilities and to reduce the likelihood that these pupils will need to be placed in remedial programs.

## **Encouraging Innovations in Child Support**

**SCR 27, Resolution Chapter 85, Statutes of 1995** – Requests the director of the state Department of Social Services to apply to the federal government to participate in any child support assurance demonstration project authorized by Congress. Child support assurance systems guarantee a minimum level of support for children living in single-parent homes by providing a base-line child support payment to families whether or not any child support is collected from the absent parent.

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### **Major Legislative Accomplishments of Senator Cathie Wright**

Assembly: 1980 to 1992

Senate: 1992 to Present

## **Helping Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adults**

**AB 3920, Chapter 1474, Statutes of 1984** – Establishes a pilot project in Ventura County (later referred to as the Ventura Model) to test the concept of an interagency, client-centered approach in the treatment of emotionally disturbed children.

**AB 377, Chapter 1361, Statutes of 1987**, makes the successful pilot project authorized in AB 3920 a statewide program.

**AB 3777, Chapter 982, Statutes of 1988** – Authorizes one to three pilot projects to replicate the Ventura Model for adult clients and authorizes the state Department of Mental Health to establish two to six integrated-services pilot programs for mentally ill adults. These pilots are authorized to waive any regulatory obstacles to the integration of public agencies and resources.

## **Stopping Health Insurance Discrimination for Children Receiving Child Support**

**AB 2118, Chapter 1152, Statutes of 1991** – Prohibits health insurance plans from denying coverage or benefits to dependent children not residing in the home of the noncustodial parent/policyholder. Also requires the health plans to enroll dependent children under the coverage of the noncustodial parent at any time an application is made, when a court order for medical support exists.