VICA Visits California Legislators to Discuss Issues Facing the Business Community

"The Sepulveda Pass remains one of the most intractable choke points in the entire Los Angeles region, impacting hundreds of thousands of motorists on a daily basis."

- Metro Board Member and Duarte Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana on the feasibility study of potential mass transit routes for the Sepulveda Pass

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Ross Pendergrat (Leavitt Insurance), Paul Audley (FilmL.A., Inc.), Jacque McMillan (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California), Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, Leeror Alpern and Monika Kim (South Coast Air Quality Management District), David Meza (Southern California Gas Company), and Philip Sokoloski (FilmL.A., Inc.) during VICA's Sacramento Advocacy Day.

On Tuesday, VICA visited Sacramento to advocate on important issues facing the business community. Attendees met with Senator Morrell as well as Assemblymembers Bocanegra, Dababneh, Fong, Friedman, Gloria, and Quirk-Silva. The group also met with the staff of Assemblymembers Bloom, Harper, Nazarian, and the staff of Senator Portantino.

Attendees urged elected officials to support legislation which would extend the authority of the Department of Transportation and regional transportation agencies to enter into public-private partnerships; support AB 12, which would require all state agencies to review and revise all regulations by January 1, 2020; support AB 279, which would extend authority to the Department of Developmental Services and regional centers to adjust the reimbursement rates for service providers; and support AB 281, which would reduce the costly and frivolous litigation plaguing California businesses under the Private Attorneys General Act.
Attendees urged elected officials to oppose AB 5, which would require employers to offer existing part time employees additional hours of employment prior to hiring a new employee or contractor; oppose AB 1003, which would place a 2-cent per ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; oppose AB 1565, which would unnecessarily accelerate salary increases for salaried, exempt employees in California; oppose SB 49, which would require state agencies to adopt baseline federal standards; and oppose SB 562, which proposes a government-run single-payer healthcare system.

VICA will return to Sacramento May 31 - Jun 1 for an exclusive two-day advocacy trip in conjunction with the California Chamber of Commerce. Be sure to RSVP and lend your voice in Sacramento!

Register Today for VICA After Dark!

Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra
Thursday, May 18
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

VICA After Dark is a regular evening reception designed to give VICA members and guests the opportunity to hear updates about policies and legislation impacting the business community from a featured opinion leader.

Attendees enjoy hosted hors d’oeuvres and drinks as they meet and interact with other prominent business leaders from the community.

VICA After Darks are complimentary to VICA members. Nonmembers who are interested in attending are encouraged to contact the VICA office.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Contact the VICA office at 818.817.0545 for more information.

Harmful Single-Payer Healthcare Bill Will Prove Costly to Businesses

VICA has been working to fight Senate Bill 562 (Lara/Atkins), a plan for single payer, government run healthcare. The bill passed through the Healthcare Committee on Wednesday, and is estimated to cost billions of dollars, but it does
Click here to RSVP
Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 17
Noon to 2 p.m.
Hosted by Providence Tarzana Medical Center
1831 Clark St,
Tarzana
Click here to RSVP

VICA After Dark with Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra
Thursday, May 18
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Valjean Ave,
Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

C E L E B R A T E  W I T H  T H E  2 0 1 7  I N D U C T E E S !
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D i n n e r :  7 : 4 5 - 9 : 0 0  p . m .
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o r  r e g i s t e r  o n l i n e  b y  c l i c k i n g  b e l o w !
Click here to RSVP for VICA's 2017 Hall of Fame Dinner.

Hot Issues
Transportation
Metro has begun looking for consultants to conduct an evaluation of rapid-transit buses, light rail, subway and potentially other modes of transit for the Sepulveda Pass.

Education
Granada Hills Charter High School has won the national Academic Decathlon for the third year in a row. The 2017 win marks the sixth time in the last seven years the San Fernando Valley campus has claimed the title.

Healthcare
Although the White House was pushing for a vote this week, the House of Representatives will not vote on legislation that would reform the Affordable Care Act until at least next week.

Politics
On Thursday, a group of California lawmakers introduced a bill that would expand the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors from 5 to 7 members with one elected executive.

Environment
After analyzing roughly a decade’s worth of key energy and environmental data, UCLA researchers not include a plan to fund the program. When past single payer proposals were considered they were funded through taxes on employers and employees. Single payer has been rejected by California voters twice. This plan would lead to lost jobs in the insurance industry and across industries throughout the state as employers scramble to keep up with the growing costs associated with the program.

Send a letter opposing SB 562 by clicking here.

Support Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation Projects

VICA strongly supports AB 1454 (Bloom) and SB 768 (Allen), which will extend indefinitely the authority of the Department of Transportation and regional
gave a C grade for energy and air quality within Los Angeles County in the latest environmental report card. New policies at the local and state level have researchers saying there are reasons for optimism.

Education
An audit of the University of California's Office of the President found that the office failed to disclose to the University of California Board of Regents, the Legislature and the public that it had $175 million in budget reserve funds. State officials have called on the UC to reverse its tuition hike.

Support these critical bills by clicking here.

Member Messages:
Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!
VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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