VICA Voices Business Community Concerns During Busy Week in Sacramento

"California is stronger and more vibrant than ever before. We have problems, but we have dynamism, too."

- Governor Jerry Brown at breakfast with VICA and other business leaders.

This week the California Legislature heard hundreds of bills in both houses. Although it was a busy time for Sacramento, VICA and the Greater SFV Chamber made sure the business community had a strong voice advocating on their behalf. Attendees met with Senators Allen, President Pro Tem de León, Lara, Stern and Wilk, as well as Assemblymembers Bocanegra, Dababneh, Ridley-Thomas and Assembly Speaker Rendon. The group also met with the staff of Senators Hueso and the staff of Assemblymembers Hidden and Nazarian.

Conversely, elected officials were urged to oppose SB 562, which proposes a government-run single-payer healthcare system; oppose SB 268, which would reshape the Los Angeles County Metro Board of Director's; oppose SCA 12, which would increase the number of supervisors and establish the position of an elected executive officer for counties with more than five million residents; oppose SB 100, which would add expensive and unfeasible mandates on energy production in California; oppose SB 49, which would require state agencies to adopt baseline federal standards; as well as oppose AB 387, AB 890 and AB 1565.
Hot Issues

Business

Earlier this week, the CA Senate passed SB 384, which would allow, but not require, local communities to permit their bars and

Attendees urged elected officials to support SB 145, regarding the waiting period for applications to operate a driverless autonomous vehicle on public roads; support SB 182 as amended, which would allow drivers of transportation network companies to obtain a single business license to operate in the state; and support AB 1414, which would enforce a permanent cap on residential and commercial solar photovoltaic system permit fees. Attendees also urged officials to support SB 384, which passed the CA Senate and now moves to the Assembly. This bill would allow alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption to be sold until 4 a.m.

VICA will return to Sacramento on June 28. Be sure to RSVP and lend your voice to Sacramento!

Click here to RSVP.

Oppose Sacramento's Attempt to Reshape the LA Metro Board

This week, the CA Senate passed Senate Bill 268 (Mendoza), which would reshape the County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors. SB 268 represents yet another attempt to restructure the Metro Board without any input from local stakeholders and the public. VICA is committed to ensuring that the Valley gets its fair share of transportation tax revenue and that Metro prioritizes Valley transit projects for funding and execution. In order to achieve these goals, however, we must have a seat at the decision-making table. Currently, the Valley is consistently represented on the Metro Board by our two elected County Supervisors. The proposal to reduce the number of County Supervisors on the Metro Board would disempower and disenfranchise the Valley.

Local representatives who opposed SB 268 were Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern; local representatives who supported were Senators Bob Hertzberg and Steve Wilk; and Senator Portantino did not vote.

Click here to take action on SB 268.

Register for VICA's 4th Annual Congressional Luncheon!
nightclubs to serve alcohol until 4 a.m. This bill will now head to the CA Assembly.

Education
A report released on Thursday by the Campaign for College Opportunity reveals that California needs 1.7 million more adults with college credentials by 2025 to meet the state's workforce needs. The report called for more funding, support and streamlined programs to equip students with the academic preparation and financial aid needed both to enroll in college and to graduate.

Environment
A bill aimed at providing more resources and assistance to revitalize the Pacoima and Tujunga washes in the San Fernando Valley is headed for the state Senate. AB 466 would create a working group for the washes modeled after the Lower L.A. River Working Group.

Transportation
A proposal to reduce traffic lanes along Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood is getting pushback from Councilman Krekorian, who is concerned about the effects on local businesses and residents. The Great Streets initiative calls for taking away a lane of car traffic in each direction on Lankershim to make room for protected bike lanes.

Healthcare
On Thursday, a proposal to adopt a single-payer healthcare system for California took a step forward, but without a method for paying the $400 billion cost of the plan. The taxes that are being proposed by sponsors of the bill would hurt businesses and families while financially crippling the state government.

Homelessness
According to an annual count released on Wednesday, Los Angeles

Friday, July 7, 2017
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave, North Hollywood

Don't miss our 4th Annual Congressional Luncheon, a unique opportunity to engage with federal elected officials who represent the Valley in a casual Q&A format.

$150 - regular price ticket

Confirmed Speakers as of 06/02/17
Rep. Tony Cardenas
Rep. Brad Sherman

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Voice Your Opposition on Bill That Will Limit Hospital Closures

VICA opposes Senate Bill 687 (Skinner) which would require that non-profit corporations which operate emergency healthcare services receive approval from the Attorney General prior to closing their emergency healthcare centers. It is critical that hospitals maintain the autonomy needed to make decisions that best meet the needs of their stakeholders. When hospitals are forced to keep resource draining emergency departments open, it has a negative impact on healthcare systems throughout the community, harming providers, insurers, and patients. This bill has potentially devastating consequences for healthcare systems throughout the state by putting a politically unpopular decision, closing an emergency room, into the hands of an elected official.

This bill passed the Senate and has moved to the Assembly. Act now to oppose this bill!

Click here to oppose SB 687.

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County's homeless population has increased by 23% over last year. Homelessness also increased sharply in the city of Los Angeles, where the count of just over 34,000 homeless persons was up by 20% from 2016.

Environment
On Thursday, the California Assembly voted down AB 378, a proposal to extend the state's signature cap-and-trade program, while incorporating local air quality standards. Late breaking amendments to the bill stripped most of the language and intended to replace the contents with a grading system run by the local air districts that would be used to determine the ultimate amount of industry assistance received by a covered entity.

Be sure to order your extra copies of VICA's 2017 Government Handbook!

The VICA Government Handbook is the San Fernando Valley and the Greater Los Angeles area's go-to guide for information about federal, state and local government officials and elected leaders. It is frequently used from Los Angeles to Sacramento and even in Washington, D.C.

This year's edition features all the information you've come to expect for the Government Handbook, including detailed maps of City Council, Legislative and Congressional districts.

Click here for the order form.

Support Sensible Bill to Lower Solar Energy Permit Costs

VICA supports Assembly Bill 1414 (Friedman), which would enforce a permanent cap on residential and commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit fees. For residential permit fees, the cap would be effectively lowered to $400.

The soft costs of solar installation remain very high in California. Given California's ambitious clean energy and climate goals, it is crucial to support energy alternatives by making them affordable. This bill will not only spur greater solar adoption and reduce greenhouse gases, but also support job growth.

AB 1414 will drive down the costs of solar in all communities and benefit businesses across California.

Click here to take action on AB 1414.

Committee Report
Entertainment Committee (6/1)
Sponsored by Pacific Federal, LLC

- Jake Bye, Vice President for the Los Angeles Rams, presented an update on the Los Angeles Stadium and Entertainment District at Hollywood Park.
- Maria Chong-Castillo, Public Works Deputy for County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, discussed the L.A. County Film Liaison Office.
- Jennifer Cohen, Government Affairs Director for the L.A. Department of Transportation, presented an update on the City's green bike lane program.
- Yudi Bennett, Co-Founder, and Emie Merlán, Executive Director, presented an update on Exceptional Minds, a non-profit that empowers people with
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.