

2018 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series Senator Ed Hernandez (SD22)

BALDWIN PARK – May 4, 2018



Senator Ed Hernandez, also commonly known as Dr. Ed, was the ninth guest of the 2018 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series. He earned his Doctorate in Optometry from Indiana University and is currently the Chair of the Senate's Health Committee. So it was very appropriate that this Roundtable was hosted by Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center within the 22nd Senate District, nestled in the San Gabriel Valley.

One of Californians' top issues, is containing health care costs and trying to lower them. Senator Hernandez counts as one of his achievements SB17 (2017), amending the Knox-Keene Health Care Services Plan of 1975 to require health plans and insurers to report annually beginning October 1, 2018, rate information and other factors on the 25 most purchased, prescribed and or sold drugs to the Dept. of Managed Health Care. Another major achievement was the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act via Covered California and its Medicaid expansions.



An issue of major concern that has been around for several decades in his Senate district and the surrounding cities is the total clean-up of contaminated water storage within the San Gabriel Valley, almost the size of Lake Mead. Throughout his tenure in the Legislature, Hernandez has had many of his bills to improve the water quality and resources for cleanup have been signed into law. As Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus, he was a strong supporter of alternative sources of transportation, such as the Gold Line.



Senator Hernandez' remarks covered many issues that are shared concerns of his district, the region and California. A quick review of his bills that have been signed into law demonstrates that "he walks the talk".

His strong belief is that you build the middle class by ensuring that higher education is accessible and affordable to Californians. The Master Plan of Education isn't broken. It just needs to be funded properly. Sen. Hernandez and his fellow legislators will be fighting to increase funding for the UC and CSU systems in the upcoming May revise. "For California to remain competitive, higher education is the key." The business community benefits from an educated work force and they should be active participants



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in the conversation to improve the educational offerings and opportunities of the State. Higher education should explore additional funding mechanisms outside of the state's general fund.

Sen. Hernandez addressed some of the issues brought up during the conversation on the 2017 BizFed Poll indicators. When asked about the rent control initiative, he responded, "rent control won't solve the problem. It doesn't create

housing units." SB827 (Wiener) was one approach to increase the housing supply, but it upset local governments. "I get what you are saying about taxes and fees". He's a strong supporter of SB1 and against its repeal. "We need the funds to fix our roads."

"California is a victim of its own success", he said. "People still want to come to California. The best



universities in the world. More jobs coming in than leaving. More venture capital money coming than leaving. And we have some of the lowest unemployment rates in the County." The size (40 million residents) and diversity of California makes it difficult to govern.



And yet, California is the fifth largest economy in the world. There have been 7 on time balanced budgets,

very different from when he arrived in the Legislature (2007), when the fight was about what to cut and now is about what to fund.



Participants attending the Roundtable: Jessica Alvarenga, Reyna Del Haro, Anthony Duarte, Eric Eide, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Ted Green, Peter Hidalgo, Lara Larramendi, Gabriel Monares, Mary Rosas, Elizabeth Shapiro and De'Andre Valencia.