

United Chambers Government Affairs March Meeting Recap

United Chambers Government Affairs meeting was held Monday March 15th. Another informative must see meeting with 2 guest speakers. First up was Assemblywoman Suzette Martinez Valaderas from the 38th district representing the north San Fernando Valley, Simi Valley, and Santa Clarita. She had limited time but gave us her background and mentioned the 10 committees that she is on in the State Legislation.

Virtually day one in office she went right to work for us on December 7th, introducing a bill that would lower the minimum franchise tax paid by small businesses. Taking notes of the questions posed to her, she closed by saying she wants to hear from us, introduced her staff and gave out her contact information.

Our second speaker, Leila Lee, was from the Mayor's office of Economic Development who gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the resources available for LA business. She noted helpful websites for businesses to access: www.corona-virus.la/Business and www.Coronavirus.lacity.org/LAOptimized

To bring current our activities, it was noted that United Chambers, has signed on to a letter to legislators that would urge them to restore the deductibility of state and local taxes on federal tax forms. This is a response to the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act that placed a cap of \$10,000 for those deductions.

Too late to be on the agenda for discussion was a Federal legislation bill that was passed by the House of Representatives on March 9th, HR 842, called the PRO Act. It is modeled after our state's AB5, the Independent workers bill. The Federal version would grant unions the power to collect dues from workers at unionized workplaces. It would also establish the multifactor test like California's ABC test to determine if a worker is an employee or independent contractor. The National Labor Relations Board would be empowered to assess monetary penalties to companies and personal liabilities to corporate directors and officers for any violation. It would prohibit employers to require their employees to attend meetings designed to explain their side of union organizing, prohibit companies from permanently replacing workers that participated in a strike, or allowing misclassifying a worker due to their immigration status. That is HR 842, a step in the direction of making California the model for all other states to follow.

Our April 19th meeting will feature a director from the LA County Public Health department discussing the County's impact on businesses and the issue of street vendors. We also have an Outreach and Marketing manager from CalSavers presenting the California retirement program available to employees that don't have a workplace program. Please join us.